The Canadian Jewish News

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Repeal vote weakens Arabs

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) —

The overwhelming vote to overturn UN Resolution 3379 does not mean that Israel has suddenly become the world body's heartthrob.

And the cool feeling is mutual.

The repeal was "primarily a success for the United Nations itself, in cleansing itself of the stain that so shamefully stuck to it," said Israeli President Chaim Herzog, who, as UN ambassador in 1975, ceremoniously ripped up a copy of the resolution after its passage.

In fact, two resolutions condemning Israel passed heartily in the General Assembly just hours before the repeal vote.

Israeli diplomats say the reality of their role at the United Nations lies between the extremes of yesterday's second-ever repeal and business-as-usual condemnation. And while the atmosphere at the United Nations has indeed improved, progress is slow.

The change in Israel's status at the United Nations stems from the same factors which made possible the repeal: The collapse of the communist bloc and the fracturing of Arab solidarity in the wake of the Persian Gulf War.

Underlying the victory, Israelis stress, was high-pressure American diplomacy, particularly during the past two weeks.

It is a level of diplomacy not likely to recur on routine issues, particularly if disputes arise during the peace negotiations, and so long as U.S. President George Bush's statement that he "received a lovely call from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir" thanking the United States for its efforts is considered newsworthy for its cordiality.

The fact, however, that a pro-Israel — or at least anti-anti-Israel — resolution could pass by this majority represents a watershed.

For most of 125 countries voting for the repeal, "it was the first time in UN history they voted for a pro-Israel resolution," said Ambassador Asher Naim, the Israeli representative to the third committee of the United Nations, where the racism resolution was first introduced 16 years ago.

"They have crossed a psychological barrier," he said.

Additionally, the vote demonstrated just how weak the Arab position has become.

"They Arab world cannot hold the United Nations hostage anymore," said Naim. "There was a saying by Abba Eban that if they make a decision that the Earth is flat, they will have the votes to pass the resolution. That era has passed."

Indeed, the Arab nations can no longer reach consensus even on their opposition of Israel, as evidenced by the fact that Egypt, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Morocco and Tunisia elected not to cast a vote.

But while the 1975 vote was seen as a reflection of Arab strength in the years immediately following the oil embargo, it in fact reflected the dynamics of the Cold War United Nations.

As U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) noted in a *Washington Post* op-ed in September, Resolution 3379 was not Arab in origin, but was of Soviet manufacture.

Moynihan, who as U.S. envoy to the United Nations in 1975 led the unsuccessful fight against the motion, stressed that it reflected long-standing Soviet anti-Zionism, a policy he speculated may have reflected fears that Jewish ethnic pride in the wake of the Six Day War could lead to similar agitations from other ethnic groups in the Soviet Union.

At the United Nations, Soviet opposition to Zionism and Israel proved a convenient way to deflect all talk on human rights.

It is perhaps fitting, then, that the Soviet Union seems unlikely to outlast Resolution 3379 by more than a matter of days.

But even though the dispute in the Middle East has now assumed what Naim has called its "proper role," and even though Israelis are no longer shunned in UN halls, they remain adamant that Bush's statement saying that the repeal "will make the United Nations much more effective" does not mean that they welcome its role as a mediator.

[Cont'd. on page 8]

MICHAEL GOES HOME

Although he will not be celebrating his 15th birthday for several weeks, Michael Ya'acobub had a very special birthday party brought forward to mark the day of his release from Jerusalem's Hadassah University Hospital. Michael, who made aliyah last year from Kazakhstan, was given a new lease on life by Hadassah surgeons when he received a liver transplant. Six weeks ago Michael was in a coma, close to death, when a liver became available from a donor who died in an accident. Michael has become Israel's first successful liver transplant. [IPPA photo]

Canada applauded for resolution role

Canadian Jewish Congress President Les Scheininger lauded the government of Canada for its sponsoring role in the repeal of the resolution.

"We are delighted that this stain on the United Nations has been removed," stated Scheininger. "This portrayal of Zionism as a form of racism was not only a lie, but was an anti-Semitic attack on the goals and aspirations of the Jewish people. Its repeal is a positive development which should encourage the peace process in the Middle East."

The Canada-Israel Committee also commended the Government of Canada for its major contribution in bringing about the repeal of the resolution.

CIC national chairman Daniel Pekarsky stated that "the government's involvement in rescinding this hateful resolution further demonstrates Canada's commitment to restoring confidence in the United Nations."

The CIC praised Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Secretary of State for External Affairs Barbara McDougall for their leadership in rectifying a longstanding injustice.

B'nai Brith Canada's Institute for International Affairs applauded the UN General Assembly's repeal of the repugnant resolution.

"We are delighted that the United Nations has finally cleansed itself of this odious lie and strongly commend the Canadian Government for co-sponsoring the resolution's repeal" said Sheldon Lerman, national chairman of the Israel Affairs Committee of B'nai Brith's Institute for International Affairs.

"This decree acted to both delegitimize Israel and legitimize anti-Semitism. By confusing Zionism with racism, the resolution hindered the battle against true forms of racial intolerance."

According to Lerman, notwithstanding the decree's revocation, the United Nations continues to demonstrate an unfair preoccupation with Israel.

Vigilantism concerns Israeli authorities

JERUSALEM (JTA) —

The government and military authorities are concerned by growing Jewish settler vigilantism in the West Bank in response to recent terrorist acts by Arabs.

Settlers who rampaged through Arab towns last week causing extensive property damage have been admonished by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defence Minister Moshe Arens and other government officials not to take the law into their own hands.

The main targets were Ramallah, El Bireh, Halhoul and Hebron, where settlers smashed windows of Arab homes and cars.

The settlers justify their actions, as they have many times in the past, by accusing the Israel Defence Force of lax security measures and being too soft on Palestinian activists.

The army, which denies the allegations, nevertheless treats the settlers gently. It suggested that the acts of violence are the work of a misguided minority.

Gen. Danny Yatom, commander of the central sector, which embraces the West Bank, met over the weekend with leaders of the militant settlers movement. He urged them not to become involved in illegal acts and to leave the maintenance of law and order to the competent authorities.

A senior IDF officer claimed that "extremist groups" representing a minority of the settlers were responsible for unlawful acts and that the IDF was in full control of the situation.

The officer singled out for praise a leaflet distributed by a rabbi at one of the

[Cont'd. on page 8]

January schedule

We will not be publishing on January 2 or January 16 due to scheduling changes announced earlier this year. Our normal weekly schedule will resume with the issue of January 23.

The editorial deadline for the issue of January 9 is Monday, December 30.

The deadline for classified and organizational advertising is Tuesday, December 31 at noon. The display advertising deadline is Thursday, January 2 at noon.

For candlelighting times for this week and next, please see below:

Tevet 20, 5752 — Shmot
Candlelighting: Montreal 3:57; Toronto 4:27
Tevet 27, 5252 — Va'era
Candlelighting: Montreal 4:02; Toronto 4:32

Inside

Abellas receive BBC award — *Page 4*

Holiday tale warms the heart — *Page 8*

Bourassa makes no promises — *Page 9*

Canada

Gertrude Romberg enjoys a visit from one of the pets from the Pet Visitation Program.

Bond between elderly, pets provides therapeutic value

By
CYNTHIA GASNER

TORONTO —

"Man does not cease to play because he grows old, man grows old because he ceases to play."
George Bernard Shaw

The Pet Visitation Program enhances the quality of life for the elderly at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

"It is believed that the bond between the elderly and the animals has a very emotional therapeutic value," says Jennifer Schipper, Baycrest's director of public relations. "Many clients who have difficulty communicating with others, open up to the pets. They are often stimulated and interact positively with the pets."

Recently, residents and family members of the fourth floor of Baycrest's Home for the Aged were concerned when they heard that the pet program was to be cancelled.

Each week, a pet owner and his or her dog visits the floor and stops to speak to the residents and allows each one time to play with the dog. Regardless of the age or level of disability of the elderly resident, most respond with delight when the pets and their owners come to visit.

As the pet program, which was established in conjunction with continuing education, was coming to an end on the floor, the Baycrest volunteer department went into action and expanded its existing services to fill the gap.

As a vital part of its service in caring for the elderly person, Baycrest's goal is to enhance their clients' quality of life through the provision of a variety of leisure and social activities.

Breda Chug, the director of recreational services at Baycrest's home and hospital says that the focus of the pet visitation program is to bring life and living to the residents.

"It provides sensory stimulation," says Chug. "There is an opportunity for physical activity and movement, by touching and hugging, and exercise with the dogs."

With awareness that the continuing education involvement with the pet program was coming to an end, throughout the transition, volunteers were trained to take over the services on the fourth floor.

The North York Board of Education and Baycrest have been working together to provide a whole range of educational programs throughout Baycrest Centre.

"Thanks to the help of communal agencies and the North York Board of Education, we have been able to undertake leisure activities that are also therapeutic for the people we serve," says Schipper.

"The successful pet program is one example of the co-operative efforts between Baycrest and our communal partners."

Apology

An item in Frank Rasky's Showbiz Shorts column of Dec. 5 on the Jewish Artists' Scholarship Society (JASS), contained references to two personalities associated with JASS, Batsheva Avery and Gloria Valentine, which reflected neither the professional skills of these performers nor the policies of *The Canadian Jewish News* regarding stereotyping of women. We sincerely regret the embarrassment these references have caused to Ms. Avery and Ms. Valentine.

The item also contained two factual errors. JASS supports all Jewish performing arts, not only Yiddish, as the item indicated; Ms. Avery is not a cofounder of JASS, which was founded by Sheldon Glass, Pearl Godfrey, Allan Merovitz and Ms. Valentine.

Bar Mitzvah boy supports hospital

TORONTO —

For his recent bar mitzvah, Benjamin Macarz asked his guests to make a donation towards equipment for the Pediatric Department at Shaare Zedek Medical Centre, Jerusalem, in lieu of personal gifts.

The response was overwhelming, and many ill children at Jerusalem's "Hospital With a Heart" will benefit from Benjamin's generosity as well as that of his family and friends.

With the influx of immigrants from Russia and Ethiopia and their increasing use of facilities at Shaare Zedek, resources are strained, particularly in departments treating infants and children.

Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation co-president Izzie Abrams presented Benjamin Macarz with an album of the gift cards sent by his guests in honor of his bar mitzvah. Benjamin's parents are Frances and Philip Macarz.

Also to be congratulated are Judy and Arnold Katz, whose son Darren made a similsr request to his friends to donate to the hospital's Pediatric Department in honor of his recent bar mitzvah.

Shaare Zedek encourages, and is encouraged, by this type of support from a new generation of local youngsters helping less fortunate counterparts in Israel.

Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation co-president Izzie Abrams presents Benjamin Macarz with an album of gift cards.

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Ethnic groups voice support for Natives' aspirations

By
JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL —

Any new constitutional arrangement must include the resolution of the "longstanding, legitimate aspirations" of the native people, a coalition representing the Jewish, Italian and Greek communities of Canada, stated following a 1½-hour private meeting with Ovide Mercredi, grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

That resolution should include "fair and expeditious" settlement of native land claims. But the coalition fell short of endorsing native self-government or a separate judicial system.

A coalition on the Constitution was struck last February by Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), Quebec region; the National Congress of Italian-Canadians, Quebec region; and the Hellenic Congress of Quebec.

In the brief press conference that followed, Max Bernard, CJC's national unity committee chairman, described this initial meeting as useful for the sharing of information and enabling the coalition to further hone its position on native rights.

Bernard added that the coalition risked being "patronizing" if it spelled out what status the Constitution should accord natives.

"I want to make clear this was not a 'scratch your back, scratch my back' meeting;" he said.

The meeting, at CJC headquarters, coincided with Mercredi's launching in Quebec of his plan for a "tri-national" Canada. He is calling for a Constitution that defines the collective rights of French- and English-speaking Canadians and native peoples and eliminates the 10 provincial governments.

Canada would thus become a confederation of three "nations"; the English and French (as founding people) and natives would each have their own government that would deal with the central government in Ottawa.

He dubs it "one nation under three flags."

After the CJC meeting, Mercredi insisted his vision did not overlook Canada's large ethnic component. He said it does not preclude the right of ethnic communities to maintain their distinct cultures and languages in the context of a multicultural society.

He said he has discussed his ideas with the Canadian Ethno-Cultural Council, and was satisfied it is not seeking a fourth "distinct society" in Canada. The plan "is not out of step with those who support a pluralistic society," Mercredi said.

He said his plan was not specifically discussed at the CJC meeting.

Mercredi said he had accepted the coalition's invitation to meet because he wanted to find out "how they can help us" and was encouraged by the receptive audience accorded him.

He said common ground was found in both sides' interest in "maintaining the right to be different in Canada."

Bernard agreed the ethnic groups and natives share a desire not to assimilate, but as whites they can also learn from natives a greater respect for the environment and "social rights."

Over 20 years ago, Bernard was a lawyer to the native people in their land claims surrounding the James Bay power project.

He described natives as, "in effect, a conquered people," who "never surrendered their right" to territory. "This is an historical fact."

Mercredi called native self-government "a basic human right," but allowed that what that means is still open to debate.

Also present at the meeting were: Harry Tsimberis, vice-president of the Hellenic Congress; Adrian Maris, president of the Montreal Hellenic Community; Giuseppe Manno, president of the Italian-Canadian congress; CJC national director Jack Silverstone and regional director Michael Crelinsten; Manny Shacter, a member of the CJC community relations committee; and Michelle Miville Deschene, Mercredi's press attache.

The coalition has travelled to all 10 provinces in the past few months, bringing its common positions on the constitutional debate to government leaders, including three premiers.

In January, the coalition hopes to meet Ontario Premier Bob Rae. In February, it is scheduled to appear before the Dobbie-Beaudoin committee and to tour Quebec towns outside Montreal.

CJC has attempted to maintain a dialogue with the native people of Quebec through the Native Friendship Centre in Montreal. During the 1990 Mohawk crisis, Quebec CJC officials met Chief Joe Norton in Kahnawake, getting to the South Shore reservation by boat across the St. Lawrence river.

Ovide Mercredi (centre), grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, is greeted by Canadian Jewish Congress officials Max Bernard (left) and Manny Shacter. [Howard Kay photo]

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Meet with Acadians productive

By
DAVID LAZARUS

MONTREAL —

The Jewish, Greek and Italian coalition on the Constitution, in New Brunswick for the final leg of its cross-country "sensitization" campaign, enjoyed one of its most productive sessions of the trip with the province's minority Acadian population.

Jack Jedwab, CJC Quebec region's community relations director, said the coalition and the Acadian officials were on the same wavelength on "a number of issues" pertaining to the continuing constitutional debate.

Roger Ouellette, president of the Societe Nationale des Acadiens, shared the coalition's view that Quebec should stay in Canada but be granted distinct society status within the context of a renewed federalism, fostering pluralism.

Ouellette also spoke positively of the contacts established with the coalition and promised to maintain them.

The Acadians are a French-speaking Catholic minority numbering 200,000 with roots dating back to 17th century French colonies in Nova Scotia, Quebec's mainland coast, Prince Edward Island and Maine.

When Britain took possession of the Nova Scotia peninsula in 1713 and took over all of Acadia in 1763, it thought the Acadians could not be loyal and expelled many to British colonies to the south.

Most Acadians eventually returned to the area and have tried to preserve their francophone identity there ever since. Other exiles were gone for good, many winding up in southern Louisiana, popularly known as "Cajun country," where they maintain a unique folk culture.

In New Brunswick, the coalition pressed on with one of the main messages it wanted to deliver while crisscrossing the country over the last months — that minority cultures in Canada have to have a say in Canada's future.

To ensure it is an informed opinion, the coalition spent the majority of time meeting with members of their own ethnic groups — which number over 400,000 across Canada — and with provincial government leaders for some mutual feedback on the subject.

In New Brunswick, the coalition also met with Intergovernmental Affairs minister Edouard Blanchard and took part in a public forum at the University of New Brunswick's law school.

One subject that seemed to come up wherever the coalition went was Bill 178, Quebec legislation that used the "notwithstanding" clause to bar the use of English on outdoor commercial signs.

The coalition heard almost total opposition to the law and has taken a stand against it itself. But it should not be a reason for Canadians to reject Quebec, Jedwab told Fredericton's main newspaper, *The Daily Gleaner*.

The coalition also supports Quebec being granted status as a distinct society, but only while preserving pluralism and protecting minority rights.

Blanchard reportedly also described the issue of minority rights protection as an essential component to the constitutional debate, but he did not inform the group on the province's constitutional position, which it expects to formulate this month and make public after the new year.

All in all, the coalition — which included the National Congress of Italian Canadians and the Hellenic Congress of Quebec — paid visits to the Maritimes, Newfoundland, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, Victoria and Vancouver, to talk with the "grassroots" of its communities.

The CJC delegation was led by national unity committee chairman Max Bernard (who is also community relations chairman for Quebec region) and included Quebec region chairman Goldie Hershon and director Michael Crelinsten, national communications director Mike Cohen and Jedwab.

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Canada

CIC leader urges activism

By
MAURICE LUCOW

VANCOUVER —
The success of the pro-Israel community of Canada will depend, in large measure, upon the visibility of its members within the various political party structures, according to Daniel Pekarsky, national chairman of the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC).

In a luncheon address arranged by the Canadian Zionist Federation and the Vancouver Jewish Community Centre, Pekarsky called for involvement in the political process and "now is the ideal time to become active in the political party of your choice.

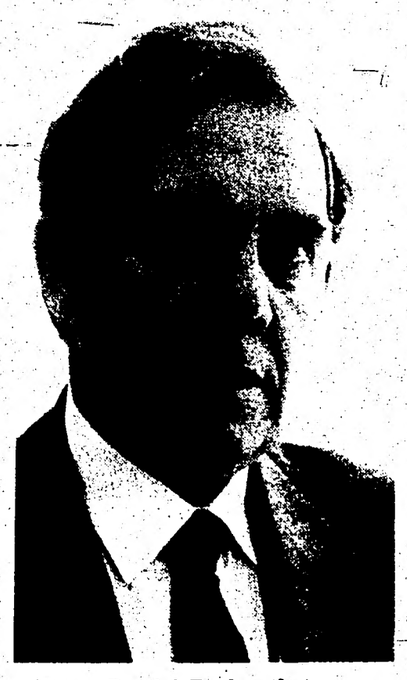
"We are just over a year away from the next federal election and the parties are eager to involve more Canadians," he said. "Whether you get involved in a riding association or as a fundraiser or a supporter of a particular candidate, consider doing it now," Pekarsky urged.

"Given the evolution of political power in Canada, the success of the pro-Israel community will, in large measure, depend upon the visibility of its members in the political scene."

The CIC chairman said his organization has received "tremendous support" from all three political parties, and parliamentarians from all parties have expressed satisfaction about the Israeli-Arab peace talks.

But, "on the flip side," he stressed that although encouraged by Madrid, for the most part parliamentarians are "seized" with domestic issues like unity, the Constitution and the economy, and the domestic agenda will dominate their time and attention for months to come.

The concerns of the pro-Israel community are not, for the time being, a high priority for Canadian politicians "nor would we accomplish



Daniel Perkarsky

very much by imposing our concerns on them."

But rather than stand by idly on the sidelines, now is the time to approach the political sector by getting involved, he said.

He called also for involvement in the constitutional discussions. "We cannot allow ourselves to become, or to be seen to be, a single agenda community. We have a great deal at stake in what is happening in our country today and we owe it to Canada to participate actively in a search for satisfactory answers to our problems at home."

Pekarsky said it is essential to give full support to Israel and its democratically elected leadership. Israel's leaders "have the right to determine what Israel should do or should not do. To approach it otherwise, is to risk, as have our American cousins, undermining the Israeli position on issues which are fundamental to its continued existence. Irrespective of the private views we may hold, I think it is appropriate for us to reaffirm publicly our unchallenging support for Israel and its government."

Pekarsky noted that at the recent General Assembly in Baltimore of the Council of Jewish Federations, "the single issue picked up by the media was a CJF poll which showed a growing divergence between the American Jewish community and Israel on such fundamental issues as territorial compromise and an independent Palestinian state." The media "spin" on this was that Israel can no longer claim American Jewish support for its negotiating position.

"This development represents a real problem," Pekarsky said, as he called for Canadian Jews to continue support for Israel. The Canadian Jewish community has often conveyed its concerns to Israeli leadership, but always in private. "This fateful period in Israel's history is surely not the time to second guess either the approach, or for that matter, the Israeli government."

The phrase, "Am echad, lev achad — one people, one heart — demands of us no less than our full support for Israel. If we now have to convey any message to Israel, I suggest it be this one."

Discussing the peace negotiations which began in Madrid and are continuing in Washington, Pekarsky said that even with the often vitriolic attacks on Israel at Madrid, "I think all Jews would agree that we prefer to see this hostile exchange between Arab states and Israel take place around a conference table rather than on a battlefield . . . In effect it represents the beginning of what Israel has prayed for since its creation — the opportunity to resolve outstanding grievances and the overall dispute through negotiations. Madrid therefore becomes something we should all endorse and, indeed, celebrate."

B'nai Brith honors Abellas

By
BEN ROSE

TORONTO —
Using the Holocaust metaphor to indict Israel for its treatment of Palestinians is what worries historian Irving Abella the most.

The celebrated 50-year-old author of *None Is Too Many* revealed this recently when he, along with his wife, Rosalie, received the special human rights achievement award from the League for Human Rights, B'nai Brith Canada. The dinner, attended by 400, was held at the Sheraton Centre.

For her part, Judge Rosalie Abella, 46, chairman of the Ontario Law Reform Commission, said there is a wide gap between what gains the public thinks women have made and what they have actually achieved.

The blue-ribbon audience of political, business and civic leaders was delighted by the efforts of the husband and wife team to give the major share of credit to their partner.

"In our house Irving does Jews, Israel, the groceries and carpooling," said Rosalie. "I do women, minorities and aeroplan. But the person who makes the decisions is my mother, Fanny Zilberman."

Their two children, Jacob, 18, and Zachary, 15, were guests at the affair, as was her mother. "Our children think they have two mothers and one has a beard," Rosalie joked.

She apologized to her husband for serving him "high cholesterol takeout" for many years while she was studying. In his turn, Irving said all he deserved was an award in the "best supporting" category. His wife said she received the best prize in her life when she married him 23 years ago.

The Abellas were described by

Rosalie Abella

Irving Abella

Martin Goldfarb as outstanding civil libertarians.

Women have come a long way in 20 years, but they still have a long way to go, Rosalie Abella said. "They are hired less, paid less, are less encouraged, and they're waiting for the human rights movement to reach them."

She is credited with creating the concept of employment equity as the result of her work as the head of a royal commission.

Irving Abella, a professor at Glendon College, York University, said he attended a conference on racism in Canada at Halifax when a prominent Canadian public official told him: "Our problem in Canada is not anti-Semitism but paranoid Jews." He said this reminded him of the story of two Jews who were walking down the street when birds flew by overhead and spattered them. One Jew turned to the other and said, "for Gentiles they sing."

The Holocaust metaphor being used against Israel "is a group libel against the victims of the Holocaust and what is most worrisome is its subtlety and its pervasiveness."

Despite signs of anti-Semitism and racism in Canada," a country of immigrants against immigration," Abella said it is still a good country for Jews to live in.

Political trends in western Canada are causing him concern, said David Elman, who with Rochelle Wilner, was dinner co-chairman. "There is a new political party in the west which claims it will sweep Alberta," he said. "This party is attractive to people for whom human rights is not a prime concern."

A special award was given to the B'nai Brith League for Human Rights by Catherine Frazee, chief commissioner, Ontario Human Rights Commission.

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Court reviewing Ross case

By
PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO —

A human rights board of inquiry was clearly and unambiguously correct in finding that a climate of discrimination was fostered by the employment of former teacher Malcolm Ross, a New Brunswick court was told last week.

Board chairman Brian Bruce was justified in relying on Ross' bigoted and anti-Semitic writings as well as the evidence of student Yona Attis, who was afraid of Ross, to come to the conclusion that a climate of discrimination existed in Moncton, lawyer Joel Richler told the court.

Richler, representing Canadian Jewish Congress, which is an intervenor in the case, said Ross' written works go far beyond religious expression and amount to hatred, said Congress representative Manuel Prutschi, who was in Moncton monitoring the judicial review.

In a telephone interview, Prutschi said Richler argued that Ross' works were secular in nature and content, though they might be masked under the guise of religious expression.

Ross is asking the New Brunswick Court of Queen's Bench to review the Aug. 30 decision of a human rights board of inquiry which found that

Malcolm Ross

Ross' employer, the District 15 school board, fostered a climate of discrimination by employing him.

Ross is the author of several books which question the Holocaust and which claim the existence of a Jewish conspiracy to undermine Christianity.

Bruce ordered the school board to remove Ross from the classroom and give him other work where he would not be in contact with students. On Sept. 15 he was made a program developer.

The three-day judicial review kicked off with argument from Doug Christie, Ross' lawyer, who said his client was not racist, but merely politically incorrect.

The Daily Gleaner reported that Christie called Ross a victim of the new tyranny of the left, which he described as ruthlessly intolerant to those who disagree with it.

He said it was absurd that the board could strip Ross of his profession because of the unfounded fears of a small group of Jewish children.

Christie, who repeatedly referred to the human rights inquiry as an "inquisition," said there was no direct link between Ross and anti-Semitism in Moncton. Christie also argued that the decision violated Ross' Charter rights to freedom of religion.

In other presentations, Thomas Kuttner, lawyer for the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, dismissed Christie's argument that Ross is a victim and scapegoat. "The victims and the scapegoats have been the citizens of Moncton and the students of District 15," *The Telegraph-Journal* quotes him as saying.

Joseph Weir, representing David Attis, the Moncton parent who launched the complaint involving Ross, said if Christie was so concerned over Ross' freedom of religion, he should have raised that at the inquiry and not for the first time at the judicial review.

German court fines Zundel

TORONTO —

A Munich court last week found neo-Nazi publisher Ernst Zundel guilty of denigrating the memory of the dead and inciting racism, prompting Canadian Jewish groups to urge law enforcement authorities to examine whether Zundel was in violation of his bail terms.

Zundel was fined the equivalent of $7,640 U.S. by a Munich Magistrates Court for saying the Holocaust was a lie and that Jews were not murdered by the Nazis, news reports indicate.

In 1988, a Canadian court found him guilty of knowingly publishing lies denying the Holocaust and sentenced him to nine months in jail. He was released on bail pending an appeal, which was heard by the Supreme Court of Canada on Dec. 10.

One of the conditions of his bail was that Zundel not publish or say anything about the Holocaust-denial pamphlet, *Did Six Million Really Die?*, which formed the basis of the charge against him.

Canadian Jewish Congress spokesman Manuel Prutschi said the German conviction "reinforces the point that Congress has made to the Attorney General of Ontario, that while abroad, Zundel is carrying on public Holocaust-denial activities which his bail terms prohibit at home.

Sol Littman, Canadian representative of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, said it was clear that Zundel violated his bail terms and he called on Ontario law enforcement officials to move to revoke Zundel's bail and arrest him.

Ian Kagedan, a spokesman for B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights, said the Crown should examine Zundel's overseas activities to determine if he violated his bail while Helen Smolack, co-chairman of the Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association (CHRA) said she feels Zundel has "crossed the line on his bail."

James Blacklock, the senior Crown prosecutor in the Zundel case, said his office has been in contact with German authorities about Zundel and he is endeavoring to determine the details of the case before considering what steps should be taken.

— P.L.

Renewal of Canada Conferences

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Topic: ECONOMIC UNION
Location: Montreal, Quebec
Date: Jan. 31 - Feb. 2
Organized By: **C.D. Howe Institute and The Institute for Research on Public Policy**

Topic: INSTITUTIONAL REFORM
Location: Calgary, Alberta
Date: Jan. 24 - 26
Organized By:
Canada West Foundation

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- a few paragraphs describing your knowledge of and interest in constitutional issues and your record of community service

Write your return address, and the name of the conference you wish to attend, on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Mail your letter to: Applications—Constitutional Conferences, P.O. 1888, Postal Station "B", Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1B4.

Application Deadline
A limited number of spaces are available. Your application must be received by 5 p.m. on January 3, 1992.

Selection Process
A limited number of participants will be randomly selected from the applications received. If your name is selected, you will be telephoned by January 6.

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The Institute for Research on Public Policy / L'Institut de recherches politiques

CORRECTION

An incorrect photo appeared with the story on a survey of the Canadian Jewish community in the Dec. 19 issue. The Stephen Cohen pictured is a Montreal resident, who heads the Institute for Middle East Peace and Development. He is no longer associated with the CRB Foundation, which sponsored the survey.

The name of Steven Cohen, the Queens College, N.Y., professor, was misspelt in the story.

The CJN apologizes for the errors.

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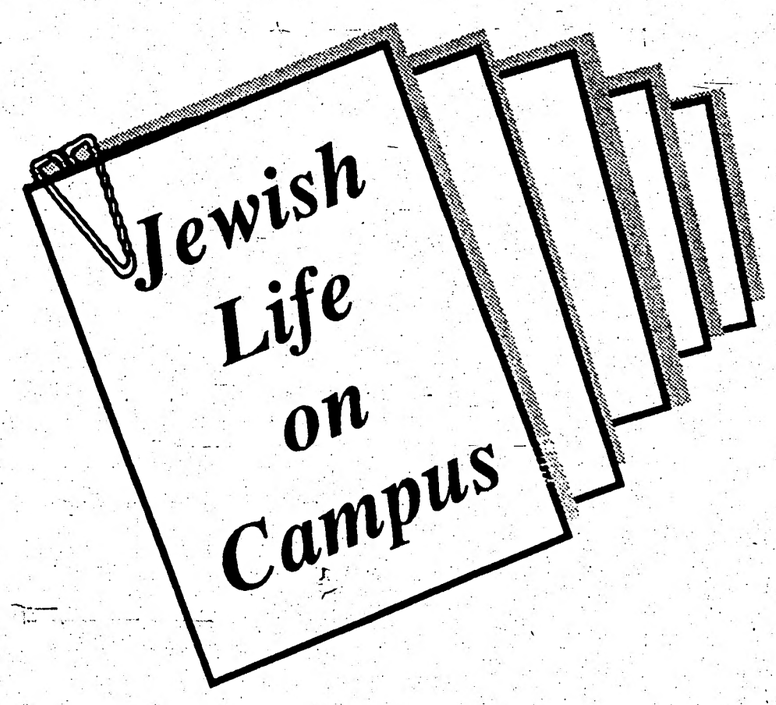


Atlantic federation serves five campuses

By
FRANCES KRAFT

TORONTO —

Jewish university students in the Atlantic provinces are concentrated in Halifax, home of the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student Federation (APJSF).

The federation serves students on at least five campuses, covering a large geographical area. "As far as I know, we are the only Jewish student group in any of the Atlantic provinces. It's a good five hours to another campus," says Timna Gorber, who is APJSF co-president along with Jonathan Mendleson.

Other campuses served by the APJSF include the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton and Mount Allison University in New Brunswick as well as TUNS (Technical University of Nova Scotia) and St. Mary's locally.

APJSF students enjoyed last year's Shabbaton at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax.

With about 100 names on their mailing list in the Halifax area and maybe a dozen out of town, the core group hosts a lot of Sunday bagel brunches with speakers and about two or three evening speakers a year.

Shabbat dinners are held three or four times a year in Halifax, usually at the Beth Israel synagogue, which along with Shaar Shalom, has been very helpful to the students, said Gorber.

There is also an annual Shabbaton at the Lord Nelson Hotel, with workshops on a variety of themes. Last year one workshop focused on intermarriage and interdating, an issue which concerns some students more than others. ("It's a very personal thing," says Gorber.) Plans for this year's Shabbaton are up in the air, due to a recent cut in funding, according to Gorber.

APJSF is funded by the National Budget Committee of Canadian Jewish Congress through their parent group, the Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC), whose offices they use.

It was with the AJC's help that the student organization was started in 1981 by Kenny Gordon, Ann David and Perla Arditti.

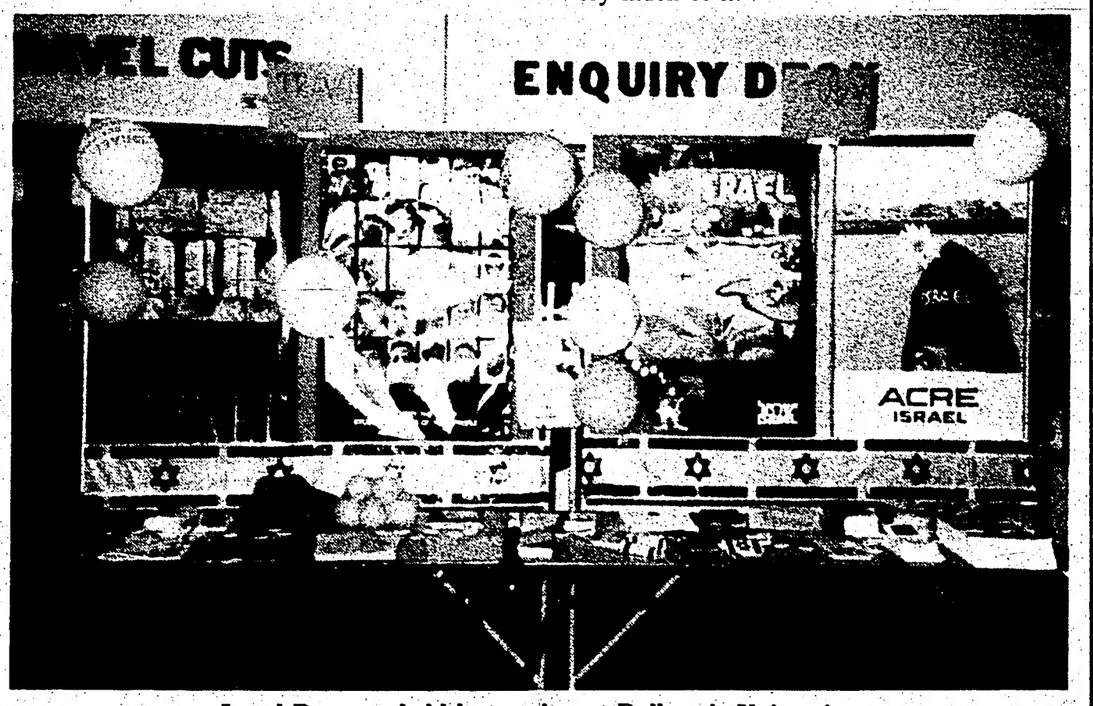
"It's very exciting to see the enthusiasm that can be achieved in a small community in spite of the isolation and the shoestring budget," said Emmanuel Zabar, executive director of the AJC. Although the APJSF could use more funding, the money they do receive is "well invested in the future," says Zabar.

"We have at least two activities a month, split between social and political events," Gorber told *The CJN*. Each activity attracts about 15 to 50 people.

Political issues which concern the students include Syrian Jewry and Ethiopian Jewry. Last year the Gulf War took centre stage, as did Operation Exodus, for which the group raised funds.

There is a large Palestinian organization at Dalhousie, Gorber said, and last year there were a couple of debates between Jewish and Arab students which Gorber described as "positive interaction."

Anti-Semitism is "not really a problem" at Dalhousie, said Gorber. "I haven't personally felt very much of it."



Israel Day was held last spring at Dalhousie University.

In our continuing series featuring Jewish life on university campuses across Canada, The CJN this week looks at universities in Montreal and the Atlantic provinces.

Les membres du Comité Israël du Centre Hillel. [Eric Choukroun photo]

Les grands défis du Centre Hillel

ELIAS LEVY

MONTREAL —

Instance représentative des étudiants juifs francophones de Montréal, affiliée à la Communauté Sépharade du Québec, le Centre Hillel est ostensiblement présent et actif dans un seul campus universitaire, celui de l'Université de Montréal, et quelques cégeps, notamment celui de Ville Saint-Laurent.

Quelques mille étudiants et jeunes adultes, plusieurs déjà actifs dans la vie professionnelle, sont répertoriés dans les listes officielles de cette association d'étudiants juifs.

M. Robert Abitbol, Directeur exécutif du Centre Hillel, reconnaît que le deuxième campus universitaire francophone de la métropole, celui de l'Université du Québec à Montréal, ne constitue pas à l'heure actuelle une priorité majeure dans l'agenda des membres du conseil d'administration de son institution.

"Il est vrai, précise-t-il, que notre présence à l'UQAM est quasi inexistante. Il s'agit d'une grande lacune que nous devrons, tôt ou tard, pallier. Nous n'avons aucune statistique précise sur le nombre d'étudiants juifs fréquentant cette institution. D'après nos estimations, il s'agit approximativement d'une cinquantaine, pas plus. Au niveau universitaire, tous nos efforts sont actuellement concentrés sur les campus de l'UDM et de ses deux grandes écoles affiliées, Polytechnique et HEC. Environ 500 étudiants juifs sont actuellement inscrits dans ces trois institutions ".

En effet, le leadership étudiant du Centre Hillel continue à afficher une profonde aversion à l'égard de tout militantisme au sein du campus de l'UQAM.

Selon Raphaël Orly-Zagury, Président du Comité Israël, "l'UQAM a toujours été perçue comme le bastion d'un farouche militantisme anti-israélien qui attisait sournoisement l'antisémitisme. Avec les nouvelles réalités proche-orientales, il est vrai que les choses ont tendance à changer. La cause arabe n'ayant plus le vent en poupe, le militantisme propalestinien a quasiment disparu dans ce campus. Cependant nous préférons mettre l'emphase sur nos activités à l'UDM, qui a toujours eu un campus plus calme, neutre et réceptif".

Le comité Israël du Centre Hillel fut créé il y a environ un an et demi. Dans le cadre de certains projets ponctuels, celui-ci travaille en étroite collaboration avec le comité "Israël sur le campus" du Comité Canada-Israël-Région du Québec.

Son principal mandat est de promouvoir activement diverses facettes de l'Etat hébreu auprès de la population étudiante universitaire et cégépienne, notamment non juive. La Semaine israélienne est l'une des manifestations majeures organisées annuellement par les membres de ce comité.

S'il est vrai qu'Israël constitue actuellement l'un des dossiers prioritaires du Centre Hillel, les membres de son conseil d'administration s'attellent aussi à sensibiliser les étudiants juifs à d'autres réalités qui peuvent difficilement continuer à être éludées.

Selon Alex Bouhadana, étudiant à l'Ecole des HEC, récemment élu à la Présidence du Centre Hillel, "nos programmes culturels et socio-récréatifs sont très populaires et attirent beaucoup d'étudiants. Par contre, nous constatons un manque flagrant de participation à certains événements à caractère culturel et politique. Fort malheureusement, malgré les nombreux efforts déployés à ce niveau là, nous sommes contraints de composer avec cette réalité morose qui accentue sensiblement notre inquiétude quant aux perspectives futures".

Ce dernier nous a aussi précisé que l'implication des étudiants juifs francophones au sein des diverses instances décisionnelles et associations étudiantes existant sur les campus, est des plus dérisoires.

Etudiant en deuxième année de Droit à l'UDM et ancien Président du comité Israël, Stéphane Eljarrat déplore une telle situation qu'il qualifie sans ambages d'" extrêmement inquiétante et anachronique".

L'apathie ineffable affichée par une forte proportion d'étudiants juifs francophones à l'égard de toute forme d' implication dans les affaires académiques, risque, selon lui, à long terme, d'avoir des répercussions fort dommageables sur notre communauté.

"Notre présence dans ces cénacles étudiants est tout à fait indispensable. Pour la simple raison qu'un certain nombre de leaders et faiseurs d'opinions de demain, sont activement impliqués dans ces associations. Par notre implication nous pourrons mieux leur expliquer qui nous sommes. En participant au processus décisionnel de ces associations nous pourrons aussi influencer certaines positions anti-israéliennes et enrayer progressivement des stéréotypes éculés véhiculés à l'égard des Juifs", soutient Stéphane, qui préside actuellement le Club des Relations Internationales de l'UDM.

La publication de Bleu Blanc, le nouveau journal du Centre Hillel, entièrement conçu par des étudiant(e)s, est indéniablement l'une des initiatives tangibles entreprises au cours des derniers mois. Celle-ci a pour finalité de mieux expliciter, notamment aux étudiants non juifs, les principaux objectifs et préoccupations de l'Association des étudiants juifs francophones de Montréal.

Le Centre Hillel, qui est la branche francophone du Bnai Brith Hillel Foundation de Montréal, organise annuellement pendant la période estivale, un voyage en Israël.

Around The World

The News In Brief

Israel, Germany project

BONN — Israel and Germany will each contribute the equivalent of nearly $700,000 to a scientific research project at the Carmel nature preserve in Israel.

The venture was undertaken under an agreement of a co-operation signed between the ministries for ecology of both countries. It calls for sustained data gathering in nature preserves by German and Israeli scientists over a period of several years.

* * *

Saudis bar Israeli Arabs

HAIFA — A planned pilgrimage by a group of over 1,000 Israeli Muslims to Saudi Arabia has been cancelled by the Saudi authorities without explanation.

The "Little Haj" (Umra) to Mecca and Medina had been scheduled to go ahead last week after two months of planning.

Israeli officials expressed shock and disappointment over the decision, especially in light of the peace talks.

* * *

Yitzhak Moda'i

Jobless will rise, drop

JERUSALEM — Unemployment, which is currently running at 10.4 percent will rise to 13 percent by 1993 before beginning to drop, Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i told the Knesset's aliyah and absorption committee.

He said the drop will come as a result of the massive funds being invested in creating employment, but the jobs will only become available in two to three years. In the meantime, he said there is no choice but to employ the immigrants in menial jobs.

Moda'i said that despite the troubling figures, "this year we created 97,000 jobs, compared to 30,000 in each of the last 10 years."

* * *

Terror cells uncovered

JERUSALEM — In the past few months, security forces have uncovered 100 terrorist cells in Jerusalem and the West Bank, thereby solving 200 attacks involving the use of firebombs or more serious weapons, a senior Israeli Army officer said.

Some 500 members of the cells captured belong to terror organizations in the territories, including Fatah.

Among the weapons captured were 27 grenades, five rifles, eight pistols and a machine gun. The officer said that the arrests undoubtedly foiled many planned attacks.

* * *

Travel tax on way out

JERUSALEM — The government has unveiled a sweeping reform in its foreign currency exchange rate mechanism. The new mechanism is intended to bring about a gradual 14-15 percent devaluation of the shekel over the coming year.

In addition, the reform calls for the elimination of the travel tax and the surcharge on imported services on Dec. 1, 1992. At present Israeli citizens and temporary residents are charged 250 shekels ($110) per person travel tax when traveling abroad.

* * *

Bodies of terrorists found

JERUSALEM — The bodies of two terrorists were found on a beach south of Gaza city last week.

It is unclear how the two planned to execute whatever they had in mind, but two pistols, 100 rounds of ammunition and 19 hand grenades were found with them.

The military source said that judging from their equipment, they were apparently on their way to commit a terror act.

* * *

Neo-Nazi convicted

VIENNA — An Austrian provincial court has sentenced Walter Ochensberger to three years' imprisonment for neo-Nazi activities, provoking an outburst from the startled defendant, who had been acquitted of the same charges at three previous trials.

Ochensberger publishes a newsletter called Sieg (Victory), which he distributes mainly outside of schools. It alleges that the Holocaust never occurred, that gas chambers never existed and that all of the "horrors the Allies showed were fabricated after the war."

* * *

Asylum bid rejected

TEL AVIV — Protesting loudly, 43 Soviet emigres who sought asylum in Holland after immigrating to Israel were returned to Ben-Gurion Airport last week in the custody of 20 Dutch policemen.

All had left Israel during the past year complaining that they could not adjust on grounds they did not "fulfill the criteria for asylum," which is persecution in their country of origin.

* * *

Border police held

JERUSALEM — Jerusalem police have detained two border policemen suspected of harassing Arabs who testified against their colleagues.

The disciplinary crackdown, considered unusual, stemmed from recent charges brought against 10 policemen alleged to have mistreated Arab detainees under interrogation.

Police Inspector General Ya'acov Terner would have suspended them, but was ordered by Police Minister Ronni Milo to take no action, pending the outcome of their trial.

* * *

Loan guarantees in danger

JERUSALEM — Israel has been warned by one of its staunchest supporters in the U.S. Senate that its request for a $10 billion U.S. loan guarantee to absorb new immigrants was in danger.

According to Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), many officials of the Bush administration want to link the loan guarantee to Israel's suspension of settlement-building in the territories.

Bus to ferry visitors to camp at Birkenau

By
BEN ROSE

TORONTO —

A Canadian group has purchased a 60-passenger bus for $19,700 from a Slovakia company to provide free rides for students from Auschwitz to the crematoria and gas ovens at Birkenau four kilometres away. Previously no transport between the two places existed. Last year 400,000 students visited Auschwitz.

The bus was purchased by Nathan Leipciger, chairman of the national Holocaust committee of Canadian Jewish Congress, and Sigmund Sobolewski, coordinator of the Auschwitz Awareness Society, on behalf of the Society.

The Society has been fighting for years to make the Birkenau killing grounds accessible to Auschwitz visitors and to press Auschwitz Museum officials to erect plaques and signs which would state that the majority of the victims at Auschwitz were Jewish.

The two Canadians were attending a meeting of the International Advisory Committee on the Future of Auschwitz at the Museum. Two Jewish students from Vancouver, Barry Dunner and Bob Krieger, also attended.

Museum officials agreed to a Canadian proposal to purchase the old Oswiecim railroad station for one dollar and turn it into a historical site with proper signs and inscriptions. The station was the unloading location for the trains which brought victims to Auschwitz.

The Canadian delegation was also successful in convincing Museum officials to change one of its guide booklets so that the victims of sterilization experiments were identified as Jewish women instead of "Slavic" women. The change has already been made in the English language guide and will be made in the other language versions.

One matter the conference was not able to resolve was the wording for the 19 small plaques and one large plaque which were located at an International Monument at the end of a ramp at Birkenau. The plaques were removed in the summer of 1989 by Polish officials after Yad Vashem revised the number of Jewish victims at Auschwitz from four million to about two million.

The memorial text has become a matter of dispute with three different versions submitted to the conference, one with the support of Canada, Belgium, France, England and Austria, one from the Museum and one from Israel and the United States. The one with Canada's support reads: "In memory of those from Poland and other lands, the countless men, women and children, mostly Jews, who in the silence of the world suffered and died here, victims of systematic mass murder by the Nazis."

All at the conference did agree on including the following from the King James Bible Book of Job, Chapter 16, verse 18: "O Earth, Cover Not Up My Blood and Let My Cry Never Cease."

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World

A Jew's Christmas story

By
ALBERT & LYNN SHARON

(JPFS) —

Albert Sharon, his parents, brother and sister, fleeing the Nazi round-up of Jews, had found temporary sanctuary in the northern Italian village of Andonno. For three years they had been hunted, forced to flee from country to country, from hiding place to hiding place. In Andonno, the villagers had shown them unusual respect and compassion. Even the Italian police and soldiers had treated them with kindness and had tried to protect them from the occupying forces of the German army. Father Borsotto, the village priest, had offered them shelter in a small building next to the church.

It was just before midnight on Christmas Eve and the church bells were tolling, echoing throughout the mountains. From our window we watched the women encased in shawls trudging to church through the snow. The night was bitter cold and the sky a mass of blinking stars. We returned to the hearth and stared at the tiny flame as we reminisced about past celebrations of Chanukah.

We sat in a well of silence, each of us drawn into our dreams, when we heard someone rapping at the door. It was well past midnight and we looked at each other, a bit apprehensively. I opened the door a crack. Before me stood a wizened old woman, wrapped in a shawl. She handed me a package of cheese and then whispered a hoarse "Buon Natale" — Merry Christmas.

Stunned by her gift, we thanked her profusely. She seemed embarrassed by our gratitude and she left hurriedly. Minutes later there was another knock on the door. I opened it again and this time a villager handed me a basket of firewood, wishing us "Buon Natale." And then another woman came by and brought us some bread.

The villagers continued coming throughout the night, bringing us their gifts of food, clothing and wood. Poor people sharing with us from their own meager resources. We were overcome. What had made them share with us, outsiders from a different country, believers in a different religion, strangers in their midst?

The next morning was bright and crisp. I walked out and trudged down the empty street. When I met Giacomo, I wished him a "Buon Natale" and then told him what had taken place the night before. He put his hand on my shoulder and smiled warmly.

"In church last night, Father Borsotto related the story of the birth of our Savior and the gifts brought to him by the magi, as he does every Christmas. As usual, he described how the holy family had to leave their home and were lodged in a manger in Bethlehem, alone and friendless. And then how the magi came with gifts for the Christ child.

"Father Borsotto then said, 'Just as our Savior couldn't find any lodging and was born in a manger, alone and rejected, so are Jews today alone and rejected, living in mangers and worse. We have two Jewish families in our midst this Christmas and they too are alone, hungry, forced out of their homes, hunted for no reason except for their being Jews.' Father Borsotto then told us that we can now be the magi and bring gifts to the Jewish families in Andonno."

I was speechless, and I raced back to our room to repeat to my family what Giacomo had told me. They too were overcome by the generosity of the simple, poor people of Andonno. And my father said, "We are fortunate to be in Andonno, among good Christians." I then went to see Father Borsotto to thank him. "My son," he said, his eyes filled with tears, "you don't have to thank me, it was the Christian thing to do."

Shortly after Christmas, the Germans intensified their activity in Northern Italy, raiding villages and burning homes and churches wherever they found evidence that Jews, deserters or Italian rebel fighters had been given sanctuary. In the nearby village of Boves, many people were killed, and the village priest was locked in the church and burned to death in it.

The Sharon family fled to the mountains above Andonno. By day they huddled together in a shepherd hut they had found, and at night they would sneak back down to the village, where the Giordano family left the barn door open for them.

Every night, coming in from the freezing cold, we found a pot of hot soup waiting for us. There are no words to describe our feelings toward these people. Thanks to their compassion and generosity, we slept in the toasty straw, warmed by the body heat of the animals. In the mornings, Signora Giordano prepared fresh straw for us. The straw kept us warm in the mountains.

One day, seated in the snow, shivering, we were startled by the sight of an old woman, swathed in black, making her way laboriously up the mountain. She was carrying a pot of hot soup for us.

There is a word in Hebrew that is not really translatable, but truly describes the behavior of these good, simple people, and that word is chesed. The closest word to it in English is mercy. It is a generosity and kindness toward others which comes with no expectation of personal gain.

In January, at the risk of his own life, Signor Giordano hid the Sharons beneath a pile of hay in his farm wagon and drove them to the railroad station in a nearby village. Using forged identification papers, they eventually were able to reach Rome, and hide undetected for several months. In the spring of 1944, their four-year ordeal ended with the American liberation of Italy.

(Albert Sharon died in Jerusalem in February 1990, scarcely five hours after he finished dictating his memoirs to Lynn.)

Concern over violence

[Cont'd. from page 1]

settlements urging the Jewish population in the West Bank not to violate the law and not to confront the army.

As reassurance to the settlers, the IDF officer enumerated the latest measures taken to prevent terrorist attacks and the numerous successes scored against terrorist groups.

The movement of Arabs along the main highways in the West Bank has been restricted to prevent ambushes. The refugee camp at Askar, near Nablus, was raided and inhabitants suspected of anti-Israel acts were arrested, the officer said.

He disclosed that in the last two months, security forces arrested 550 Arabs. They are suspected of membership in El-Fatah, the mainstream military branch of the Palestine Liberation Organization; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement; and the radical Islamic Jihad.

In addition, the officer reported, the General Security Services, known as Shin Bet, worked with the IDF and Israeli police to uncover 100 terrorist cells responsible for 200 attacks. Large quantities of weapons were confiscated, the officer said.

He observed that while the PLO ostensibly supports the Arab-Israeli peace talks now taking place in Washington, armed El Fatah members are operating in the West Bank.

Bilateral peace talks adjourn until Jan. 7

WASHINGTON (JPFS) —

Six days of bilateral peace talks ended in Washington on Dec. 18 after failing to move Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians from the corridors of the U.S. State Department into the negotiating room, but with separate sets of negotiations occurring between Israel and Syria and Lebanon, respectively.

Israeli negotiators were scheduled to return to Israel last Thursday and top Israeli negotiator with the Palestinians, Elyakim Rubinstein, confirmed that talks with the Palestinians and Jordanians would reconvene on Jan. 7.

The Jordanian and Palestinian spokesmen expressed dismay that the Israelis had chosen to return home, and said that they had been willing to remain in Washington indefinitely. They said that the Jan. 7 negotiations would resume in Washington, but Rubinstein refused to confirm this.

Yossi Hadass, co-chairman of the negotiations with Lebanon, said that it was agreed by both sides that Lebanese-Israeli talks would resume on Jan. 8, and the Israeli-Syrian talks are expected to begin at the same time.

After the last round of talks, Israeli negotiators met with U.S. Assistant Secretary for Near East Affairs Edward Djerejan. The senior U.S. official reportedly indicated that the United States would like to see talks reconvene in Washington in January and would not like to see the issue of venue become a bone of contention.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said that in his opinion, the talks were "by no means a failure."

As Israelis and Palestinians traded charges on who was responsible for the impasse, the Israelis described the problem in less stark terms. "We are exchanging views and exploring the positions of each side," said Israeli spokesman Binyamin Netanyahu in refusing to characterize the current impasse as failure.

It is believed that Israel is trying to avoid the impression that an environment of crisis exists, fearing this could trigger U.S. intervention. On the other hand, the Palestinians and Jordanians repeatedly emphasized that the situation is hopelessly deadlocked and that no progress can be made without American intervention.

Repeal vote weakens Arabs

[Cont'd. from page 1]

David Levy made that point after casting his country's repeal vote, emphasizing that the vote does not mean that the United Nations can now expect an expanded role in the current Middle East peace process.

And U.S. envoy Thomas Pickering, asked whether the vote would lead to such a heightened UN role, said: "I don't think you can automatically translate it, like a nickel in a slot machine."

Naim noted that this year the General Assembly has passed resolutions "completely at odds" with the current peace process, such as calling for an international peace conference and demanding the representation of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

On Dec. 16, a resolution condemning Israel's annexation of Jerusalem passed with 152 votes against Israel's lone nay; the United States and three Caribbean nations abstained.

A more sweeping measure, which declared the question of Palestine the core of the conflict in the Middle East, demanded unconditional and total Israeli withdrawal and the creation of a Palestinian state and implicitly condemned the Camp David accords, was passed despite American and Western opposition.

The vote was 93 to 27, with 37 abstentions.

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Name Game

There is a story in almost every Jewish surname and Toronto lawyer FRED M. CATZMAN has been researching their origins over the past few years. Mr. Catzman reports on his research in The CJN.

NOYEK — NEMETZ

My quest for help with a hearing problem led me to Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto.

In addition to aid, I was impressed by two personalities — and their unique surnames. Dr. Arnold Noyek is chief of otolaryngology. My conclusion on the origin of his name is speculative. I attribute it to the biblical admiral Noah whose name in Yiddish is pronounced Noy-ach. The Hebrew pronunciation is "ch" as in chaver — the Hebrew word for friend or pal. Interestingly, the Australians adopted the word but spell and pronounce it Cobber.

Jill Nemetz is the charming audiologist. Her surname is a place name in Poland (formerly Germany). In German it was Nemitz, in Polish it is Nemica. It is not far from Gdansk (formerly Danzig).

FRISCH

Frisch means fresh. Its popularity as a surname has given rise to variations like Fresco — the Spanish equivalent which was adopted by Sephardi Jews and Raanan, the Hebrew word for fresh.

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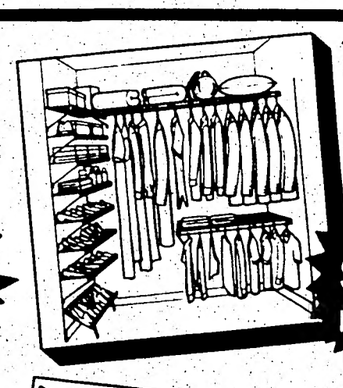

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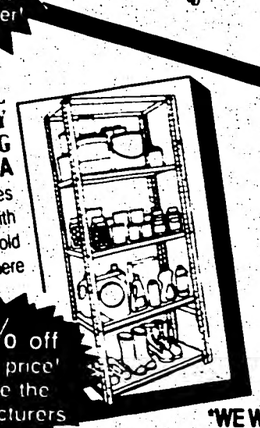

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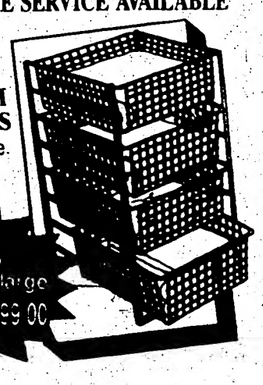

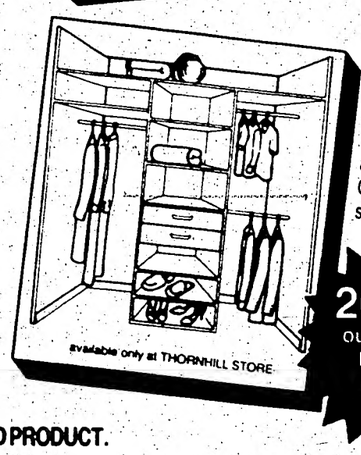

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Quebec welcomes Jews Bourassa tells leaders

Two weeks ago, the Quebec Jewish community sent a special delegation, which included both anglophone and francophone representatives, to meet with Premier Robert Bourassa and other members of his cabinet in Quebec City. Two Canadian Jewish News reporters accompanied the delegation. Because of the importance of the issues discussed at this meeting, we are carrying both reports in our national section.

By
DAVID LAZARUS

QUEBEC CITY —

Québec Premier Robert Bourassa has told a special delegation of 19 young Jewish community leaders, angry over Bill 178 and worried about a new exodus of its youth, that their continued "dynamic" presence is vital to a politically and economically healthy future for the province.

During a 40-minute meeting in the cabinet room and throughout the day (Dec. 12), members of the delegation spoke of how Bill 178 and "political and economic uncertainties" — in the words of Allied Jewish Community Services Women's Federation president Laya Feldman — continue to anger the community and drive its young people from Quebec.

Bourassa made no promises. But he said Bill 178, which outlaws commercial outdoor signs in any other language but French, would be "reconsidered" in two years if the government sees it has had no real effect on immigrants' inclination to learn French, the main reason he said it was enacted in the first place.

And despite continued linguistic tensions, "the will of the government and the people are the same — to try to keep you here," he said.

Bourassa also said he would like to see a Jewish member back in cabinet. Two former Jewish cabinet members, Dr. Victor Goldbloom and Herbert Marx, came from the mostly Jewish D'Arcy McGee riding. The riding was a Liberal Party stronghold until its voters, embittered by Bill 178, elected Robert Libman of the Equality Party.

"Fundamentally, Quebec is a tolerant society and wants to stay tolerant," Bourassa said. The best way for the Jewish community to better the situation, he continued, is to stay and work towards improvement.

The government wants Quebec's English-speaking community to "feel at home in Quebec."

During the meeting, the premier displayed his famous flair for fielding questions deftly. He circled the massive cabinet table and shook hands with each delegate, and posed for a group photo.

Given the limited time, the meeting covered a surprisingly broad range of concerns.

They included anti-Semitism, which Bourassa said must be fought with "vigilance," and the consitutional crisis, which he was confident was solvable. He saw no reason why two cultures in Canada could not devise a common plan of action when nine European nations (the European Community), with their individual languages and cultures, are demonstrating that they can.

Responding to a question, Bourassa pledged that doors would be open for contacts between the tripartite coalition, made up of the Jewish, Greek and Italian congresses, and chambers of commerce and universities outside Montreal in order to further the coalition's agenda of promoting renewed federalism and Quebec as a distinct and pluralistic society.

Jack Jedwab, CJC Quebec region's community relations director, said the delegation, which also included representatives of AJCS, the Canada-Israel Committee-Quebec and the Communauté Sépharde du Quebec, was committed to having Quebec stay within Canada.

The premier told Glenn Nashen, co-chairman of CJC Quebec region's Jews in Arab Lands committee, that he would "talk to" Quebec's international affairs minister, John Ciaccia, about an all-party resolution in suport of Syrian Jewry.

* * *

Concerns about youth retention and Bill 178 surfaced again during a whirlwind day whose other main highlight was a luncheon with Gagnon-Tremblay in a private room adjacent to the main dining room of the Assemblée Nationale.

Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Shelef was also in attendance, and the Israeli flag fluttered above the Assemblée, which recognized his presence before Question Period.

Gagnon-Tremblay — as well as Industry Minister Gerald Tremblay and Regional Development Minister Lise Bacon who brought greetings — stressed the need to build the economy and for young people to help by staying in Quebec. More and more Quebecers who left are coming back, they said.

Gagnon-Tremblay encouraged the Jewish community to stay — to speak out but also to listen. She characterized the Jewish community as "complete Quebecers" and said a healthier economy and more jobs would encourage more members of the community to stay.

Gagnon-Tremblay also was very impressed by the tripartite coalition, saying it has more credibility with the people than politicans do, and promotes inter-cultural relations.

She hoped that it could help to dispel Quebec's image among some as a place where "you can get a ticket for speaking English in the street," she said, citing an extreme example.

The minister also spoke out strongly against anti-Semitism and racism, saying the province could not tolerate them.

That same evening, she rushed off to Montreal to announce more government funding for intercultural educational and "rapprochement" programs.

For participants, the day was part civics lesson, part public relations, co-ordinated by AJCS's human resources department and by CJC to get young Jewish leaders more active in Quebec political affairs, and to let Quebec know that the community is committed to being active.

The delegation, "ambassadors" all, followed protocol but asked — always politely — the important questions, even if the answers did not always satisfy them.

The group also got a heady taste of life on the provincial "hill," meeting with Assemblée Nationale speaker Pierre Saintonge (Equality Party leader Libman dropped in), watching Question Period, and to end the day, visiting with Liberal Party whip William Cusan.

The delegation also visited the "flag room," which contains a plaque placed there by the Jewish community in 1982 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Quebec law giving Jews full rights as citizens.

Cultural Communities Minister Monique Gagnon-Tremblay and Israeli Ambassador Itzhak Shelef are pictured with the group of young Jewish community leaders visiting Quebec.

Rencontre avec M. Robert Bourassa

ELIAS LEVY

QUEBEC —

Le 12 décembre dernier, le Premier ministre du Québec, M. Robert Bourassa, accorda un entretien de quarante minutes à dix-neuf jeunes leaders de la communauté juive de Montréal.

Cette rencontre s'inscrivait dans le cadre d'une journée de visite et d'étude à l'Assemblée Nationale du Québec, organisée par le Département des ressources humaines d'AJCS et le Congrès Juif Canadien-Région du Québec, en étroite collaboration avec le Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles du Québec.

Présidée par Mme Laya Feldman, Présidente de la Fédération des femmes d'AJCS, la délégation rencontra M. Bourassa dans la salle spacieuse où se déroule hebdomadairement le conseil des ministres de son cabinet. Ce dernier était accompagné par Mmes Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, Ministre de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles, et Barbara Berger, l'une des plus proches assistantes de la ministre.

Mme Feldman précisa au Premier ministre que l'un des impératifs majeurs actuels de la communauté juive du Québec est d'endiguer l'exode de ses jeunes.

Selon elle, environ 8000 jeunes adultes juifs ont quitté la province au cours des dernières années. Afin de pallier à "cette situation extrêmement inquiétante, dit-elle, la communauté juive a mis en branle récemment un programme de "youth retention" pour inciter les jeunes adultes juifs à demeurer au Québec".

M. Bourassa expliqua aux membres de la délégation que cette vague inéluctable de départs pouvait difficilement laisser indifférent son gouvernement.

"Nous déplorons tous cette situation, ajouta-t-il. Le dynamisme intense et le niveau d'instruction de votre jeunesse font qu'elle est extrêmement bien préparée pour relever les grands défis qui attendent le Québec de demain. Il est de votre devoir de transmettre à vos jeunes le message le plus objectif et convaincant possible. Ils ne doivent pas craindre les tensions linguistiques et les incertitudes politiques qui planent à l'heure actuelle sur notre société: Le Québec demeurera toujours une société ouverte et tolérante où les jeunes de votre communauté auront un rôle de premier plan à jouer".

Au sujet de l'épineuse question de la loi 178, le Premier ministre affirma que cette loi n'a jamais eu pour finalité de brimer les droits individuels et limiter la liberté d'expression des minorités vivant au Québec.

Il s'agit plutôt, selon lui, d'une mesure législative nécessaire afin "de faciliter l'intégration des nouveaux immigrants au sein de la culture majoritaire du Québec. Dans un continent nord-américain où la culture anglophone est prédominante, l'adoption de cette loi devenait une nécessité impérieuse afin d'atténuer les nombreuses craintes, tout à fait justifiées et légitimes, des francophones".

Cependant, M. Bourassa précisa que son gouvernement est prêt à apporter des amendements substantiels à cette loi et même à la reconsidérer si "on s'aperçoit qu'elle n'a aucun impact positif sur le processus d'intégration des immigrants dans un cadre culturel francophone. Le Parti Québécois, dit-il, affiche aussi à ce sujet une position analogue à la nôtre".

Les restrictions imposées par la loi 178 sont, selon lui, tout à fait symboliques. Il n'y a aucun indice ostensible qui laisse présager que la culture anglophone est sérieusement menacée au Québec.

"La situation que vit actuellement la minorité anglophone du Québec, n'est pas du tout comparable à celle des francophones résidant dans les autres provinces du Canada. Leur taux d'assimilation est de 85 pour cent dans l'Ouest du pays. Au Québec, les anglophones ont droit à leurs écoles, universités, hôpitaux, réseaux de communication. Ce qui n'est pas du tout le cas des francophones résidant à l'extérieur de la province", soutient-il.

En ce qui a trait à la recrudescence de l'antisémitisme, phénomène délétère qui n'épargne pas le Québec, le Premier ministre déclara qu'il est impératif de demeurer très vigilant et de combattre énergiquement ce fléau pernicieux.

Cependant, ajouta-t-il, "dans le cas du Québec, on peut difficilement parler de l'émergence d'une vague d'antisémitisme. Il s'agit plutôt d'incidents isolés. Notre charte des droits et libertés, qui est l'une des plus généreuses au monde, protège nos minorités contre ce genre d'incidents intolérables dans une société démocratique".

Coprésident du comité "Juifs en pays arabes" du Congrès Juif Canadien-Région du Québec, M. Glenn Nashen demanda au Premier ministre si son gouvernement avait l' intention d'entériner une résolution, adoptée déjà par plusieurs conseils municipaux, qui dénonce vigoureusement le sort tragique réservé par le régime du Président Assad aux 4500 Juifs vivant en Syrie. Le Parti Québécois et le Parti Egalité sont prêts à adopter à l'Assemblée Nationale cette résolution.

Sans être trop volubile et explicite à ce sujet, M. Bourassa assura aux membres de la délégation qu'il aborderait incessamment cette question avec son ministre des Affaires internationales, M. John Ciaccia, afin que ce dernier suive attentivement l'évolution de ce dossier.

Depuis le départ de MM. Marx et Goldbloom, qui jadis occupèrent d'importantes fonctions ministérielles au sein du gouvernement du Parti Libéral, il n'y a actuellement aucun membre de la communauté juive au sein du cabinet ministériel dirigé par M. Bourassa. Ce dernier espère que "dans un futur proche, d'autres membres de la communauté juive intégreront à nouveau les rangs de mon cabinet".

Premier Robert Bourassa

La rencontre avec M. Bourassa fut précédée par un déjeuner offert par Mme Monique Gagnon-Tremblay aux membres de la délégation. M. Yitzhak Shelef, Ambassadeur d'Israël au Canada, était aussi présent à ce déjeuner. Sa présence à l'Assemblée Nationale du Québec coïncida fortuitement avec celle du jeune leadership de la communauté juive.

Au cours de son séjour à Québec, M. Shelef eut des entretiens avec Mme Gagnon-Tremblay et M. Gérard Tremblay, Ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie. Le drapeau israélien flotta toute la journée sur le toit du bâtiment principal de l'Assemblée Nationale.

Mme Gagnon-Tremblay rappela aux membres de la délégation que "les membres des communautés culturelles du Québec ne doivent pas rester à l'écart du débat constitutionnel. Ils ont à mes yeux plus de crédibilité que n'importe quel politicien. Notamment lorsqu'ils s'attellent à expliquer à leurs homologues des autres provinces ce qu'est véritablement le Québec. Une société tolérante et démocratique, qui respecte le droit de ses minorités".

M. Gérard Tremblay et Mme Lise Bacon, Vice-première ministre du Québec, assistèrent aussi quelques instants à cette rencontre afin de souhaiter la bienvenue à la délégation. Celle-ci fut accueillie à son arrivée au Parlement par M. Pierre Saintonge, Président de l'Assemblée Nationale.

Après avoir brossé une brève rétrospective historique de la vie parlementaire québécoise et de la dynamique organisationnelle de ses principales institutions, ce dernier étaya les grandes lignes d'une loi promulguée à Québec, en 1832, par la législature du Bas-Canada. Cette législation historique, dont on fêta le 150ème anniversaire en 1982, octroyait des droits et privilèges pleins et entiers aux Juifs du Bas-Canada.

Le groupe assista à la période de questions de l'Assemblée Nationale et clôtura sa visite au Parlement avec une discussion à bâtons rompus avec M. William Cusano, whip du Parti Libéral du Québec.

La délégation était constituée par des membres d'AJCS, du CJC-Région du Québec, de la Communauté Sépharade du Québec et du Comité Canada-Israël-Région du Québec.

World

50 Years Ago ...a look back

EXTERMINATION POLICY
ZURICH, Dec. 3, 1941 (JTA) —

Led by the *Voelkischer Beobachter*, Hitler's personal organ, the Nazi press throughout Germany today started a campaign to impress the German population with the fact that "it is the Fuhrer's policy to exterminate the Jews by whatever means possible."

The campaign, which follows the anti-Jewish decisions adopted last week at the Berlin conference of representatives of Axis-controlled countries, is coupled with new restrictions against Jews introduced by local Nazi authorities in the cities where Jews are still permitted to reside.

* * *

CROATIAN JEWS RENDERED DESTITUTE
LISBON, Dec. 10, 1941 (JTA) —

Virtually all the 25,000 Jews in the former Yugoslav territory now comprising the Kingdom of Croatia have been rendered destitute by the anti-Semitic policy of the regime which bars them from all productive labor and professional activity. Except for a few hundred technicians and experts in certain industries who could not be replaced, the Jews of the puppet state have been left without any occupation and are dependent on their relief organizations for sustenance, reports here disclose.

Thousands of Jews in Croatia are already in concentration camps. About 1,400 women and children are interned in a camp at Labor-Grad, near Zlater, about 50 kilometres north of Zagreb. The camp is maintained entirely by the Jewish community which had to renovate the buildings to make them habitable. About 3,000 men are interned at Jasenovac, about a hundred kilometres south of Zagreb. In most provincial towns the Jews have been turned out of their homes and either locked up or forced into common quarters.

* * *

AGED JEWS REPORTED EXECUTED
STOCKHOLM, Dec. 17, 1941 (JTA) —

Two hundred and fifty Luxemburg Jews over 65 years old were today reported to have been executed by gas in an old monastery in Ulflingen where they had been confined since the Gestapo rounded them up last October.

They were among 600 Jews, all over 50, who were arrested by the Nazi secret police. The majority of those arrested were reportedly sent to the Warsaw ghetto.

* * *

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS DISSOLVED
ANKARA, Dec. 17, 1941 (JTA) —

The Romanian government today, emulating the Nazi-dominated French and Belgian governments, ordered dissolution of all Jewish organizations in the country, according to a decree issued by Gen. Ion Antonescu, which was broadcast by the Bucharest radio.

The Union of Jewish Communities as well as all Jewish associations and societies will be combined in a central Jewish office, which will be under government control, the broadcast announced. All Jews in Romania, regardless of their nationality, have been ordered to register with the central Jewish body.

A report from Bucharest several weeks ago stated that the heads of the local Jewish communities in every Romanian city, with the exception of Bucharest itself, had been sent to concentration camps.

* * *

CHILDREN ROAM GHETTO
LONDON, Dec. 22, 1941 (JTA) —

Swarms of starving Jewish children roam the Warsaw ghetto seeking bread. From early morning until late at night, Polish Jewish sources report, hundreds of begging children can be seen on the streets. Some of them have been orphaned by the war or by Nazi brutality, but the majority of them are begging not only for themselves but for parents who are unable to earn a living.

In an attempt to partially alleviate this condition, a home for these waifs has been opened on Zamenhof Street in the ghetto.

Mennonite group supports Luitjens

By
PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO —

The Mennonite Central Committee of British Columbia has taken up the cause of former Nazi collaborator Jacob Luitjens, asking federal authorities to temper justice in his case with mercy.

That request prompted a "concerned" response from B'nai Brith's Institute for International Affairs which in turn led to suggestions from B.C. Jews that BB, which has no local office in the province, had meddled in matters that could have local repercussions without first consulting with B.C. Jews.

Meanwhile, Dutch authorities have made "informal" inquiries from Canada as to the potential success of an extradition request for Luitjens, who was convicted in absentia in 1948 for collaborating with the Nazis.

Luitjens, a former member of the Nazi Landwacht organization, was stripped of his Canadian citizenship on Nov. 7 after a Federal Court judge ruled he had concealed his wartime activities.

Waldo Neufeld, executive director of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), said the organization became involved in the case at the request of Luitjens' Vancouver church.

"As a Mennonite community, we want to make it clear we have enormous sympathy for the atrocities suffered by the Jewish people and others," Neufeld said.

But "on the basis of the last 30 years" (Luitjens immigrated to Canada from Paraguay in 1961) and because the MCC did not wish to see Luitjens endure more suffering, the MCC has asked local MPs to bring their concerns to the federal cabinet, Neufeld said.

In a letter to MCC chairman David Giesbrecht, BB spokesmen Brian Morris and Ian Kagedan state that "Luitjens' 'good record' in Canada and his membership in your church are irrelevant to the fact of his crime and culpability. . . The quest [for justice] is one for human accountability in the human community. . . Luitjens does not merit residence in this country."

Rabbi Martin Cohen, interfaith chairman of Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific region, said that while local Jews do not object to the contents of the letter, it was "heavy-handed" for BB "to plunge into an issue which could lead to inter-ethnic tensions without taking counsel with anyone" in the province.

He said the non-Jewish Dutch community in Vancouver was also upset with the MCC stand, since during the war Luitjens had betrayed Dutch resistance fighters.

Rabbi Cohen said it appeared that the Dutch community was ready to "carry the ball" on the MCC stand.

Meanwhile, Victor Holtus, spokesman for the Dutch Justice Ministry, said he expects a response from Canada sometime in the new year on the Dutch extradition inquiries.

Immigration spokesman Justin de Beaucamp said that "the discussion of options. . . at this point would not be helpful."

BB representative David Matas and Congress spokesman Milton Harris have called on the government to immediately initiate deportation proceedings against Luitjens.

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Front Line

Dawidowicz towers as interpreter of the past

COMMENTARY

By
RUTH WISSE

The historian Lucy S. Dawidowicz died a year ago this month. She was a small woman who could hardly be seen from behind a lectern, but the longer she is gone, the more toweringly she looms as an interpreter of the past and of her society. The Jews lost in her a model of intellectual integrity and one of their strongest defenders. Those of us once blessed with her friendship feel the undiminishing pain of her absence.

Lucy was not an easy person — nisht kayn laykhter mentsh — as she would have been the first to acknowledge. Although by the time of her death she had become the hub of an enormous group of friends, she spared no one her criticism, as if toughening us for the battles she knew we would have to face.

Most of the people close to her were fairly successful writers, professionals, intellectuals, professors, and rabbis, people used to being praised, if not for their real achievements, then for the favors they were expected to provide. Lucy held these people up to unsparing scrutiny. She communicated her strong sense of urgency by demanding as much of her friends as she did of herself.

Her sense of urgency derived from and contributed to her work as a historian. In her landmark book of 1975, *The War Against the Jews*, she demonstrated that the destruction of the Jews was a central aim of Nazi ideology and an ambition every bit as important to Hitler as his military conquest of Europe.

Ruth R. Wisse

While other historians argued that the Holocaust was an incidental by-product of the war, the spontaneous response to such tactical problems as the German defeats on the Eastern front, she mustered evidence to show how the Nazis intentionally set out to destroy the Jews, using unprecedented techniques and weapons in their war against a dispersed civilian population.

By conscripting a large part of the local populations of occupied countries to help them in their effort, they managed to destroy approximately seven-tenths of the Jews on the continent.

The title of the book contains the important gist of its evidence. As opposed to such terms as the English "Holocaust," the Yiddish "Khurbm" and the Hebrew "Shoah," that summon up different quasi-religious and quasi-national images of murdered Jews without any clear human cause and effect, the phrase "The War Against the Jews" reminds us of the energy of political aggression that turned the living Jews into corpses.

The Jews were not killed by some abstract fate but by human beings who were driven by certain powerful ideas and with the military force to put those ideas into action.

Since the war against the Jews was such a central goal of World War II, it is no accident that in this Hitler should have succeeded whereas in all else he failed. Whereas all of Hitler's other conquests had been reversed, undone, by the time of his suicide in 1945, the war against the Jews had resulted in almost total victory, with Jewish civilization largely erased from Europe, just as Hitler had intended.

This is a very unpleasant realization — as horrible to contemplate in retrospect as it was unpleasant to face when the war against the Jews was being prosecuted. Lucy Dawidowicz discovered that the struggle over history began to replicate with uncanny similarity the struggle that had once taken place within history, because the same sets of forces remained at work.

Holocaust denial was the war against the Jews continued beyond the grave. As certain anti-Semites once wanted to banish the living Jews from their midst, so current anti-Semites like Ernst Zundel want to expel the murdered Jews from history, and for the same reason: because they "pollute" the purity of the German national image.

Until the day she died, Lucy Dawidowicz collected and marshalled evidence to expose the malicious lies of Holocaust deniers. She knew that without historical vigilance, the tide of propaganda could eventually shift to the side of the deniers.

Holocaust denial also took many subtler forms. There were those who wanted to sweep the war against the Jews under the carpet in the name of "letting bygones be bygones." Like the Germans during Hitler's rise to power who wanted to pretend that things would work out for the best with or without their intervention, many good people in the aftermath of the Holocaust wanted to forget the worst that had happened without any internal reckoning on the part of the participating nations.

Lucy Dawidowicz's follow-up book *The Holocaust and the Historians* exposed different strategies of historians who tried to minimize the evil of the past because they were not prepared to confront its reality. She showed how the reluctance to confront political evil characterizes liberal as well as totalitarian thinking. There are historians who want to kill the past with kindness, and they can be no less dangerous to democratic society than those who want to kill the past out of continued malice.

Understanding the war against the Jews is the first requirement of preventing its recurrence or limitation. Lucy died too soon: no one stands guard with quite such fine intelligence or courage over the historical truth that she defined and protected.

ANALYSIS

Germans march against violence, xenophobia

By
PATRICIA RUCKER

(Second of a series)

Hoyerswerda.

The name of this drab little industrial town near the Polish border became a leitmotif in every discussion my colleagues and I had during our 10-day stay in Germany.

The news item I read on the Lufthansa flight between Toronto and Frankfurt was brief, but chilling. There had been another in a series of attacks by young neo-Nazis on a hostel for foreigners, and police had been called in. But for the first time, in Hoyerswerda the local townspeople cheered the mob on.

It was not an auspicious start to a visit to Germany by editors of North American Jewish newspapers. As the violence against foreigners continued, Hoyerswerda became a code word. It was not the worst of the attacks; an African died in one arson attack and two Lebanese children were severely burned in another. But, because of the approval displayed openly by the townspeople of Hoyerswerda, it was the one that awakened memories, within and outside the Jewish community, of the jackboots and Brownshirts of 60 years ago.

Participants in a rally against racism and neo-Nazism in Berlin Nov. 9 carry a banner reading Solidarity, against violence and hate of foreigners, human rights for all. The rally was organized on the 53rd anniversary of Kristallnacht. [RNS Photo/Reuters]

None of the violence was directed against Jews, not even the Soviet Jews in hostels. But that was no comfort to Heinz Galinski, the 79-year-old chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and an Auschwitz survivor. "The same ones who looked the other way when synagogues were burned now look the other way when foreigners are attacked," he said, shaking with anger. The council's vice-chairman, Jercy Kanal, shared Galinski's fears. "Can you imagine if someone is against refugees they are not against Jews?" Born in Poland, Kanal decided to stay in Germany 40 years ago to work with the survivors who could not or would not leave. After Hoyerswerda, he said, "I'm beginning to ask myself why I'm here. I'm beginning to have self-doubts."

A prominent member of the younger generation of Jewish leaders had the same questions. Thirty-five year old Michael Friedman, a member of both the governing council of the Frankfurt Jewish community council and the national council, is a successful lawyer, television talk show host, and a former city councillor; he is affiliated with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union. "What frightens me are the hundreds of ordinary people — not Nazis or skinheads themselves — who are standing around cheering for the violence." Is there a future for Jews in Germany? "If you had asked before Hoyerswerda . . . I will not be one of those who waits too long if my country goes in the wrong direction."

If Hoyerswerda awakened memories of past horrors for Jews, it brought back past shame for Germans. Editorial comment was harsh. "What the Nazi mobs did over 50 years ago will remain a lasting disgrace. Are the youngsters who lob Molotov cocktails into refugee hostels today aware of this writing on the wall?" a columnist in the *Hannoversche Allgemeine* asked. Another, writing in the east German *Leipziger Volkszeitung*, scored both the government and the opposition Social Democratic Union for lack of leadership: "While leading politicians have toured a handful of refugee hostels to kiss babies in a belated but emphatic political gesture, vandals have firebombed other hostels by night."

Some Germans, ordinary townspeople like those in Hoyerswerda, responded with acts of simple bravery. As the spate of attacks continued, hundreds of people in Wenden, a small west German town in the Sauerland, formed a human chain around a hostel for foreigners to protect it against a mob of drunken right-wing demonstrators.

A month later, on Nov. 9, more than 100,000 marchers in 30 German cities commemorated Kristallnacht, and the second anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, by protesting against violence and xenophobia. Right-wing extremist groups threatened to come out in force, but they were overwhelmed, and in some instances bloodied, by the marchers.

For our group of North American Jews, the humanity of the people of Wenden and the obvious pain our young German guides felt at the violence provided a little reassurance. But fresh from meetings with Jews in Berlin and Frankfurt, we found the reaction of German officials in Bonn less reassuring. The auslanders (foreigners) were consistently referred to as "asylum-seekers," a code word that had little meaning for us. "We are not an immigration country," a number of officials said. Others, ignoring the fact that the attacks were occurring all over Germany, insisted that the xenophobic violence was largely a result of the former East German regime's failure to acknowledge the Nazi past. Clearly uncomfortable with our questions, one Foreign Office spokesman suggested that what was needed was increased economic investment in eastern Germany "in order to get rid of the pressure of those minorities."

Finally, in spite of the official discomfort about discussing such a highly-charged and highly-embarrassing issue with North American Jews, the facts began to come through, and with it the dimensions of the problem Germany is facing.

"Asylum-seeker" is not simply a code-word for "foreigner." It is an accurate description of the 193,000 people in 1990, and the more than 200,000 in the first 10 months of 1991, who have entered Germany under the provisions of the most liberal political asylum laws in Europe. Framed in 1948 as a response to the plight of Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany who found other countries' borders closed to them, Article 16 of the federal constitution allows anyone claiming political persecution to remain in Germany, supported by the state, until his status is determined. Between 90 and 95 percent are ultimately judged to be economic, not political, refugees and refused asylum. In the meantime, Germany spends $4 billion (U.S.) annually to feed and house them.

For an economy already strained by the costs of unification, this is a considerable sum, and an easy target for resentment. The neo-Nazis are turning that resentment to their own ends, but moderate German public opinion condemns both the xenophobic violence and the failure of the both the federal and state governments to find a solution to the unrestricted immigration. For a Canadian, there were some uncomfortable echoes of our own debates over immigration and refugee policies.

Xenophobia is not unique to Germany. It is a European problem. One out of five French voters now support the National Front; the anti-Semitic remarks and anti-immigrant policies of its leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, have become almost respectable. In Sweden, the anti-immigrant New Democracy Party received seven percent of the vote in last September's general election, giving it the balance of power. In Austria, the neo-fascist Freedom Party won 18 percent of the vote in provincial elections on the strength of racist policies which target migrant workers.

But in Germany, it is different. As Alfred Jachmann, a German Jewish survivor of Auschwitz who is now the director of Frankfurt's Jewish Home for the Aged, said: "Somewhere else, it would be serious. But in this country, it's a catastrophe."

There is more than a touch of irony to the situation. Germany, which has so worked so hard and with such determination to integrate itself fully into the European community, is now confronting a continent-wide threat. But it is being judged, not in the context of European politics in the second half of the 20th century, but on the record of German history during the first half.

Editorial/Letters

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An independent Community Newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

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Birth of a nation

The Soviet Union, as we have known it for about 70 years, has ceased to exist, having been supplanted by the nascent Commonwealth of Independent States. On New Year's Eve, the hammer-and-the-sickle will be lowered from the Kremlin for the last time. An era has ended.

The Soviet Union's downfall is a momentous, historic and unexpected event. When Mikhail Gorbachev started down the road of reform in 1985, he could not have envisioned that the forces he set into motion would take on a life of their own and ultimately devour Lenin's Soviet Communist state and render redundant Gorbachev's own position as president.

The demise of the Soviet Union, with its awesome nuclear arsenal, proves yet again that nothing man-made is permanent. Nations, and empires, rise and fall. And now, with faint echoes of previous dynasties which collapsed unceremoniously, the Soviet nation-empire has been consigned to history.

Its passing is largely unmourned. The Bolsheviks started out with noble ideals, but Stalin and his cohorts swept them away in an orgy of terror and intolerance. The Red Army stymied Hitler's expansionist and racist designs, but Stalin, the great dictator, proceeded on the path of domestic repression and imperialism. Jewish culture was mercilessly crushed amid the backdrop of increasing totalitarianism, and the spark of freedom in Eastern Europe was brutally extinguished. Stalin, had he lived a little longer, might have activated his insane plan to deport Soviet Jews to Siberia.

For too long, after its recognition of Israel, the Soviet Union played a baneful role in the Middle East, supporting and arming radical Arab regimes, coddling terrorists, defaming the Jewish state and in general stirring up needless trouble in that tinderbox of a region.

But now that the Soviet Union has, for all intents and purposes, passed into oblivion, issues of import call out for attention.

•Can the new union, headed by Boris Yeltsin, stave off economic chaos and political instability as it moves toward a real free market system? Both Robert Gates, the director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, and James Baker, the American secretary of state, have warned of the dangers of nationalist extremism and fascism lurking in the wings.

•How will minorities, particularly Jews, be treated in the post-Gorbachev era, and will his successor(s) regard free, unfettered emigration in a favorable light?

•How will the authorities prevent disaffected nuclear scientists from selling their expertise to irresponsible elements abroad?

These are questions that must be resolved satisfactorily as soon as possible. In the meantime, we should monitor the evolving situation carefully, encouraging and nurturing those whose fondest and most sincere wish is to transform the old, discredited Soviet Union into a beacon of liberal, humane democracy.

Resolution reversed

With the repeal of Resolution 3379, an unsightly stain has been removed from the United Nations. It took far too long to expunge it from the record books, but now, thankfully, it has been ineradicably erased by a huge margin — 111 to 25, with 13 abstentions.

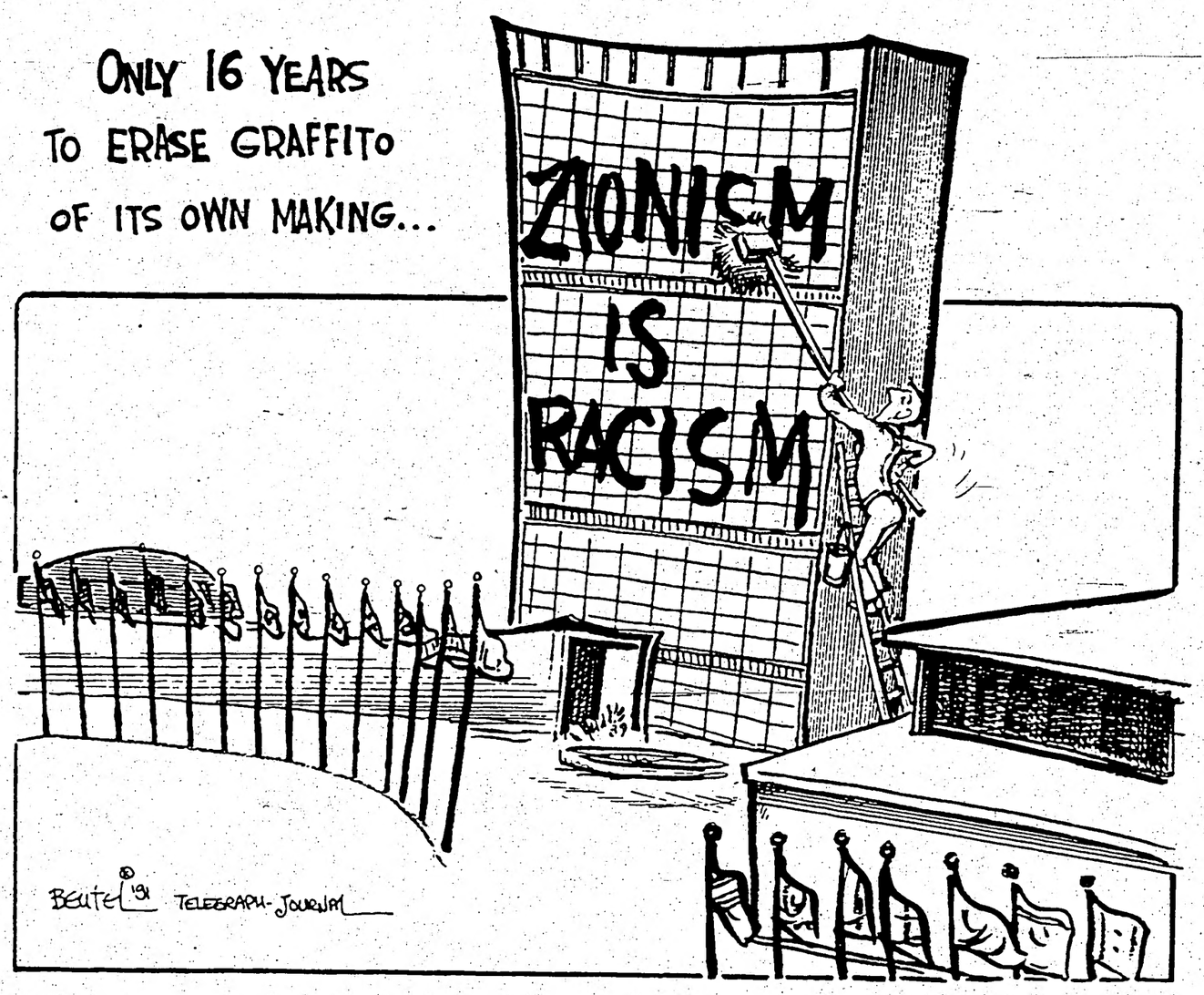
The reversal of the infamous Zionism-is-racism resolution was co-sponsored by 85 nations, including the Soviet Union — which instigated the passage of that discredited resolution on Nov. 10, 1975. Many countries which originally supported 3379, such as the old East Bloc, India, Mexico and Brazil, were among the group of 111 which voted it out of existence.

The successful campaign to get rid of it was spearheaded by the United States, which, despite its current disagreements with Israel, is still Israel's best friend and only strategic ally. The efforts of the Bush administration should be acknowledged.

It is regretful, however, that not *one* Arab country voted against 3379. Egypt — the only Arab land at formal peace with Israel — was one of 17 countries which was absent or did not take part in the vote. Among the others were Bahrain, Kuwait, Morocco and Tunisia.

Several Arab nations voted to retain 3379 — Iraq, Jordan, Algeria, Lebanon, Syria, Libya, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the United Arab Emirates.

The fact that the Arabs could not bring themselves to cast their ballots against such a scurillous resolution is a sad, disquieting commentary on their collective mindset. It speaks volumes.



Letters to the Editor

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.

* * *

SAM AND ME POOR CHOICE

On Nov. 28, my daughter and I attended a screening of a film, *Sam and Me*, sponsored by the marketing division of the United Jewish Appeal.

Before the projector was set into action, speaker after speaker, composed of presidents, chairpersons, program committee members, etc., all took their place in front of the podium to deliver a message of some relevance concerning UJA and then, without exception, made a point of telling the assembled invited audience that we were in for a treat.

In fact one of the co-chairmen spent at least 20 minutes reading the publicity handout outlining the entire plot and explaining its meaning. When I stood up and questioned him as to why he found it necessary to divulge the entire story, as we were about to see the film for ourselves, his reply was that he was almost finished, and then continued, to the astonishment of the bored audience.

Finally, the film began.

It is not my intention here to give a critique of the cinematic offering at hand, but suffice to say this film portrays Jews in a despicable manner.

What in heaven's name compelled the people who organized the evening, not only to select this film for screening, but to continue to praise it throughout their introduction? I cannot think of anything more bizarre than this affair. Imagine Jews, gathered to hear the plight of their brethren all over the world and the need to help Israel settle them in the promise land, being lured with a less than mediocre film, in which Canadian Jews are depicted as shallow, mean and crass burlesque figures.

Days after this event, my blood is still boiling, and I cannot, for the life of me, understand why and how a 'marketing group' yet, would find it appropriate to feed us these kinds of outrageous stereotypes of ourselves!

Korczak, the great humanitarian of the Warsaw Ghetto, would probably not have believed, that less than 50 years after he accompanied the children of his orphanage to their death in Auschwitz, his brethren chose to view a film in which they are portrayed as the scum of the earth. All this at a time when a brilliant film, *Korczak*, depicting his heroism and martyrdom, is playing to empty houses in Toronto, Canada's largest Jewish community.

Jack Kuper
Toronto

Jack Kuper

* * *

CLEANING LADY TROUBLES

We feel compelled to respond to Elaine Kahn's opinion of Dec. 5.

Surely, in these times of upheaval, both social and economic, she can find a subject to write about of greater relevance and interest to the community than her cleaning lady troubles.

I believe that Ms. Kahn considers herself to be a feminist. That week, a young student was raped in broad daylight at a Toronto college; we were about to commemorate the second anniversary of the massacre of 14 female students at a Montreal university; and a major rape trial was taking place in the United States. Yet Ms. Kahn chose to ignore all of this and write about a totally trivial topic.

In future, we hope that Ms. Kahn will open her eyes to the important issues that confront the REAL world.

Miriam and Josh Devon
Toronto

* * *

NOT FAIR TO BATSHEVA

Frank Rasky's description of singer/songwriter Batsheva as an "enchantress" and a "siren" out on a "conquest" is appalling. Canada is graced with the presence of Batsheva's talent. She is acclaimed across the country for introducing both Jews and gentiles to the beauty of Jewish music.

If Frank Rasky thought he was being gallant by making his comments, he was wrong. Undermining any professional woman like this is disgraceful. It is sadly ironic that the article was meant to announce the formation of JASS, a group formed by Gloria Valentine (also subject to Rasky's insidious comments), which intends to foster continued interest and respect for the Jewish performing arts.

Frank Rasky, however, demonstrated complete disrespect for these artists. An apology is in order.

Valerie Kates
Toronto

* * *

FURIOUS WITH ISRAEL

As a Jew living in the Diaspora, I felt very sad to learn that Israel had given an honorable burial in Jerusalem to Robert Maxwell.

It is alleged he stole and defrauded workers' pension funds, leaving simple, law-abiding workers without any retirement funds.

I am furious with Israel for honoring a man with this alleged attitude toward his fellow man. As the Bible says, "You must always honor and be helpful to your neighbors."

Ed Cooperman
Toronto

Opinion

Russian Jews remain insulated

By
RABBI W. GUNTHER PLAUT

During the second week of December an international conference took place in Moscow. Prof. Yaacov Glickman, a Toronto sociologist, was one of the participants and, before leaving Canada, was good enough to make his conference paper available to me for reportage.

Glickman's contribution has all the trappings of a sociologist study: surveys, statistics, charts, analyses and conclusions. What he has to say is of considerable interest to Canadian Jews, for he deals with Russian Jews in Canada, and specifically in Toronto where most of them live. His feelings are, to say the very least, most perturbing.

I will not discuss here why the Russian immigrants (I use the term Russian for simplicity's sake, for "Soviet" no longer seems to apply) have selected Canada and not Israel or the United States or any other country as the land in which they want to live. Glickman does discuss it but in this article my concern lies elsewhere.

Glickman's bottom line is that Russian Jews in Toronto are insulated from the Jewish community, feel alienated, have a low interest in Jewish identity, and in the long run will most likely be lost to the Jewish community altogether. That, says Glickman, would be a tragedy for all of us. For not only are those newcomers a highly educated group — over 20 percent with university degrees — but they also constitute a reservoir of great strength, ambition and ingenuity which would be lost to us. When we take this important and increasing group and put it together with other alienated young Jews, we see a future in which our communal core leadership will be aging, and will not be able to replenish its ranks as it could and should. The Canadian Jewish community will be the loser and for all we know its very survival may be at stake.

Rabbi Plaut

Part of the alienation is not necessarily of Jewish origin. The immigrants, says Glickman, "are over-educated and under-employed in comparison to their Jewish counterparts and other ethnic groups . . . They generate the type of malcontent and estrangement that normally do not bode well for the social cohesion of the community at large."

In Toronto, the Russian immigrants are almost totally unaffiliated. If they belong to any group at all it is the Association of Soviet Jewry in Canada. Glickman emphasizes that while initially money plays some role in affiliation, it is not the major reason for this dissonance.

When the immigrants were asked which of the values they had brought with them they wished to preserve in the New World, the answers were instructive. Overwhelmingly they said that first and foremost they wanted to preserve and hand on their Russian language, and secondly, they wanted to preserve and hand on their Russian culture. They came to Canada as ethnic Jews and evinced little desire to fill this ethnicity with any Judaic content.

In addition, says Glickman, the immigrants voiced the opinion "that North Americans are unfriendly, insincere, show a lack of interest, and are unsympathetic towards recent emigres."

That may not be a novel sentiment for newcomers to evince, but its presence is real and must be taken into consideration. Therefore Glickman suggests: "Be that as it may, the emigres seem to be delivering a message that ought to be heeded, if they are to become equal citizens as befitting the guiding principles of the country at large."

In his conclusion he utters the warning, previously delivered by Robert Bry, professor of sociology and associate of the Centre for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Toronto, "that if the Jewish community leaders fail to tend to the needs of the fastest growing category of the assimilated and alienated Canadian Jews . . . then these constituencies will be permanently lost to the community."

Glickman does not say what strategies we are to embark upon, but the conclusion seems to be inescapable that something must be done 'ere it is too late. We may have to cast aside some long cherished ideas and engage in a radical rethinking of our communal strategy. What affects these newcomers affects all of us.

Painting kids' rooms no easy task

By
ERICA MEYER RAUZIN

There are two ways to paint your kids' bedrooms. The best way is to pick up the telephone and call a painter, but that's not the way we did it.

Instead of a conversation between adults that ended reasonably with something like this: "Yes, please, white with red trim and have it done by Tuesday," we had a conversation across the generation gap that ended something like this: "If you paint a heart on the toilet, Mommy will never make your bed again."

Actually, you can paint your children's bedrooms in 10 easy steps.

1. Ask the children what color they want their rooms to be. Explain that the choices are confined to blue (the Smurf years), pink (the Barbie years), or white with a trim in a single livable hue. Olive green may come up during the Ninja Turtle years, but try to discourage it. Black is not a suitable color for a kid's bedroom unless your child is a rock star, in which case you are beyond my humble help and should be reading *Billboard* and counting your money.

2. Send your husband to purchase the selected colors. Insist on water-soluble paint. This will be extremely important to your future happiness.

Erica Meyer Rauzin

3. Tell the children to put on sloppy clothes to wear while painting. Try not to mind that their idea of "sloppy" is the hand-knit smocks your great-aunt spent months creating (which do look, unfortunately, like something that pre-dates Van Gogh), and your idea of sloppy is last year's cut-off jeans and the Hulk Hogan T-shirts.

4. Try to wear out the children with preparations. Tape the window edges and mirror borders; remove portable furniture and push the rest into the centre of the room; cover the floor with old sheets (this will make you feel better, but it won't help). Your children will not want to waste any time at all on preparations if the paint is in the house and visible. Leave it in the car until the last moment.

5. Bring the paint in and distribute the brushes. Adults get rollers and trim brushes; children get medium-to-small brushes. Give each child his or her own small container of paint (this saves mayhem, wars and drips) and assign each one a separate open expanse of wall. This will keep them happy, occupied and feeling involved for 10, maybe, if you're lucky, 15 minutes. Try to finish the rest of the room in that time.

6. Throw the dog out of the room. Maxim: the longer the dog's hair, the more paint it will attract. This is true of children also.

7. Go behind the children and wipe the still mercifully wet paint off the light switch, fan switch, door knob and *mezuzah*. Of these items, only the *mezuzah* cover will survive this experience. The door knob will never turn again and the switches will have to be repaired at great expense, but don't think about that now.

8. As the children tire of painting the walls, the woodwork, the window and themselves, create an easy way out for them. The route should go through the bathtub. If you let them into the rest of your house while they are still covered with paint, you best be sure you really love the color because you will be seeing it everywhere for some time to come. The worst damage in this regard results when a barefoot child drips paint on the floor (the sheets are now sodden and bunched in the corner) and then steps in the drip and then has to run to the kitchen for a strawberry yogurt, right away.

9. Put a video tape of *Mary Poppins* (my smallest girlchild calls her Miriam Poppins) on for the children and finish the room. At this point, we called in reinforcements, because devoted sisters-in-law and older cousins will do baseboards, door frames and general tidying-up, but small children will not.

10. Since you didn't call a painter, call a babysitter. Take your sister-in-law out for a small libation and a good meal. Meanwhile, the sitter will put the children to sleep in your bed because their room still reeks of paint. Never mind. By the time you get home, you'll be so tired and your back will be so sore that you won't care where you sleep.

Believe me, the fumes won't bother you at all.

Ethnic groups influence paper

By
MAURICE LUCOW

When I read the Page 1 story in *The CJN* on Nov. 21 that Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith were critical of the *Toronto Star* for coverage of a Holocaust play, I thought to myself: "Well, here we go again. The Toronto Jewish community is still having problems with its daily newspapers."

Not that I expected the papers to change in the 2½ years I've been away from Toronto. It's just that it seems the community has had problems with the *Star* for years . . . and with the *Globe and Mail* as well. I remember getting many phone complaints when I was editor at *The CJN* about stories in the papers, and often copies of letters sent to the editors, asking me to use them in our Letters to the Editor section.

My reply usually was: "That's a matter for the CJC or BB to handle." Once in a while we took issue with the papers through our editorials, or through coverage of complaints. But there wasn't a great deal we could do to get the papers to see things the way the Jewish community sees them.

I'm happy to report, therefore, that at least one daily newspaper, the *Vancouver Sun*, has apparently decided to head off, or at least minimize, complaints from the Vancouver Jewish community and from the entire multicultural community.

The *Sun* has formed a voluntary 11-member multicultural advisory board made up of a representative cross-section of British Columbia's multicultural communities. Erwin Nest, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress Pacific region, is a member.

This was the *Sun's* own idea. As far as I know, nobody lobbied for the board. The aim, as cited by the able young editor-in-chief, Ivan Haysom, in one of his weekly op-ed columns, is that the *Sun* "has an obligation to build bridges of understanding."

Maurice Lucow

Haysom says that his paper is not only in the news business. "We're also in the understanding business . . . As Vancouver grows, as we become increasingly multi-colored, multi-faith and multicultural, we have to reflect a rapidly changing society. Our news coverage, traditionally white and middle-class, has to become accessible and involving all our readers. The opposite of understanding is ignorance. Ignorance breeds fear. Fear often breeds racism."

The editor says further that "our job at the *Sun* is to play a real and tangible role in explaining and examining our society: who we are, what we think, what we feel. We have to go beyond racial stereotypes, beyond the dragon boat festivals and Italian days and become a forum for all our communities. We have to help rid our society of its fears . . . It means giving a voice to all segments of our community."

Former Toronto television personality Carole Taylor, who in recent years was an alderman on Vancouver's city council and who now writes a twice-weekly column in the *Sun*, helped organize the committee, based on contacts she made when as a member of the city council she handled multicultural affairs.

The CJC's Erwin Nest told me that at meetings of the board, members advise *Sun* editors what direction the paper should take in coverage both locally and internationally. The committee was especially insistent that the paper, whose foreign news coverage used to be fairly anemic, give wider coverage to those international events which have special interest for the multicultural communities here.

The results have been noticeable. The paper has increased its world news pages and in the case of Israel, especially, seems to be giving broader coverage.

It's not only in the news columns that Israel seems to be getting favorable coverage. Frank Rutter, the paper's foreign affairs specialist, whose columns in the past have been ambivalent regarding Israel, has done a couple of columns recently which could be labeled as "pro-Israel."

One column, on Dec. 4, was headed: "U.S. might be farther ahead to take a lighter hand with a touchy Israel," and he states that "there's no doubt the U.S. is far more attentive to Arab voices than ever before."

I should add that in addition to the multicultural committee, the *Sun* also organized a voluntary "citizens' advisory committee" of which I am a member. We meet in *The Sun's* board room monthly to tell the editors what we like and don't like about the paper and we're brutally frank. We make suggestions on new features, etc.

At the meeting right after the Israelis whisked some 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel, two of us on the committee, who are Jewish, lashed out at the editor for not playing up the story properly and without giving the Israelis a pat on the back in its editorial pages for their amazing feat. The editors listened and a few days later, *The Sun* reprinted on its op-ed page the moving story about the exodus by Natan Sharansky, which had run in the *Jerusalem Report*.

That seems to be the secret of the paper's attempts to get the committee to work: the editors listen and do the best they can to carry out committee suggestions.

True, one story got into the paper's weekly Saturday Review section by Jewish writer Stan Persky, who does a media column. He criticized the "mainstream" community for a mixup in a proposed radio debate between CJC members and Jews for a Just Peace (JJP), on the issue of the Palestinians.

CJC responded promptly with a letter from Dr. Michael Elterman, chairman of the region, who pointed out that the JJP "is not viewed as a Jewish voice on the issue because many of its 80 members are not Jewish."

Elterman said the reason there is no debate with the JJP is that it is viewed as coming from a strong ideological position — with only one agenda: criticizing Israel. He pointed out that the community has many more pressing needs such as education and social services, the rise of neo-Nazi groups and Holocaust denial, and hate literature. the *Sun* devoted almost a half-page to the letter in its Saturday Review a couple of weeks later.

While it may be true that the *Sun* is seeking to build circulation, because it's one of the weak sisters in the Southam Newspaper Group, nevertheless the editorial department has apparently decided that creating goodwill rather than opposition is a more potent way to gain readers. Perhaps the *Star*, which has a financial stake in Southam, can learn from this.

Features

Soviet film treats anti-Semitism

By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

Dmitry Khananovich Astrakhan is indebted to Mikhail Gorbachev, whose future is in doubt as the Soviet Union dissolves and the Commonwealth of Independent States replaces it.

Without Gorbachev and the forces he unleashed, Astrakhan's film, *Go Away*, would never have seen the light of day.

Screened at the Festival of Festivals in Toronto last fall, *Go Away* would have been frowned upon in the pre-Gorbachev era because of its Jewish theme. Until Gorbachev came along, Moscow either discouraged or suppressed Jewish culture.

Go Away, which marks Astrakhan's debut as a movie director, is about a Jewish family in turn-of-the-century Russia and how they cope with the prospect of an imminent pogrom. Despite its grim theme, *Go Away* exhibits flashes of mirth and humor.

Astrakhan, a 34-year-old graduate of the Leningrad Institute of Theatre, Music and Cinema, explained that *Go Away* was conceived on a grand scale. Interviewed through an interpreter, he said he wanted to deal with the "national question" and anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union.

With restrictions against the Jewish community melting away in the late 1980s, he and his collaborator, Oleg Danilov, also a Jew, believed that *Go Away* would not be plagued by the usual political problems.

Astrakhan, who is currently a director at the N.P. Akimov Comedy Theatre in Leningrad (St. Petersburg), is no stranger to censorship. In pre-glasnost days, he had to submit theatre scripts to a finicky and paranoid Communist party commission for approval. Once, he recalled with alacrity, narrow-minded officials blocked an innocent children's play simply because the storyline seemed implicitly critical of the Stalinist purges.

But with *Go Away*, money — rather than politics — was the chief stumbling block. Sufficient funds for *Go Away* had been pledged by a representative of the Jewish Cultural Society in Leningrad, but the project appeared doomed when Astrakhan learned that this particular individual had acted on his own initiative and was, in any case, bound for Israel as a new immigrant.

Frantic negotiations ensued, and finally the Jewish Cultural Society came through with the required funds. Lenfilm, which at one point had offered to buy *Go Away*, contributed 100,000 rubles to a budget of 1.5 million rubles. If it had been made today instead of in 1989, Astrakhan said, *Go Away* would have been five times more expensive.

Since it was his first film, more than the expected number of production glitches cropped up. But in the end, Astrakhan was pleased that the production schedule did not exceed 40 days. Filming took place in a rustic corner of the Ukraine, and Jewish and non-Jewish actors were used. Astrakhan appears briefly in a non-speaking role.

Given his background in theatre, Astrakhan is doubly proud of *Go Away* — which is professionally crafted as well as poignant. "It's a myth that theatre directors can't make films," he said. "This myth is perpetuated by filmmakers."

Astrakhan, a balding man who favors the loose, casual look of a faded jean jacket, was brought up in a close-knit, secular home. His late father, a Communist party member, was a historian whose specialty was the political opposition to the Bolsheviks. "It was an unpopular subject in his day, and he had trouble being published." During World War II, his father — as well as his mother — fought in the Red Army. Astrakhan's grandfather was killed by the Nazis. His grandmother was saved by Byelorussians. Astrakhan himself is married to a Russian.

Anti-Semitism, one of the threads upon which *Go Away* hangs, dogged Astrahkan as a youth. "The word 'Jew' was a dirty word as I was growing up. At school, when a teacher asked for my nationality, my classmates would turn around and gaze at me strangely. To be Jewish was something indecent."

Anti-Semitism also intruded into the lives of his nephews and his brothers, three of whom now live in the United States. "Before he immigrated, one of my brothers moved his kid out of a school because the anti-Semitism was too hard to endure."

As an adult, Astrakhan has felt the slings and arrows of anti-Semitism, but adds that it has not "impaired" his career. "I have had an excellent career," he said.

After working as a director at the Theatre of Young Spectators in Sverdlovsk, he studied at the Gorky Drama Theatre. Not long afterward, he was hired by the N.P. Akimov Comedy theatre.

Astrakhan sees his future in the Soviet Union (or what is left of it.) He believes that communism is dead and that democracy will flourish. "I intend to remain in Leningrad. I like my job. It gives me great artistic opportunities. I'm prepared to sacrifice a lot for it."

He has never considered living in Israel, although he has relatives in the country. One of his Israeli uncles is a good friend of Natan (Anatoly) Sharansky, the former Soviet human rights campaigner and Prisoner of Conscience.

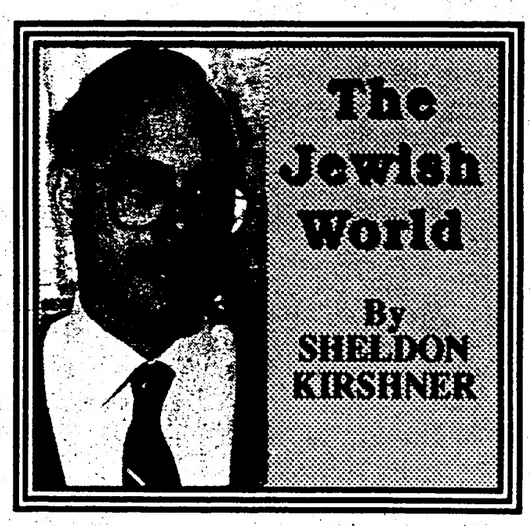
Despite his disinterest in aliyah, Astrakhan seems to have high regard for Israel. "Israel, as a country, behaves like Motl," he said, referring to the chief character in *Go Away*. "It defends itself."

Go Away has as yet to be released commercially in the Soviet Union, but it was warmly received and won a prize at this year's All-Union Film Festival in the city of Sochi. "People applauded and laughed and cried," he said. "And the press coverage was great."

In North America, *Go Away* will doubtlessly be seen by a much wider audience in the not-too-distant future.

"I'm in the process of negotiating North American distribution rights," he said before leaving Toronto for home.

Dmitry Astrakhan's film, Go Away, could not have been produced before the Gorbachev era.



The Jewish World

By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

Polish President Lech Walesa stunned his nation early last month by asking a 59-year-old historian to cobble together a government after Poland's first fully free elections since World War II.

The man he nominated was Bronislaw Geremek, a bearded, pipe-smoking intellectual who was once one of Walesa's closest advisors in the Solidarity trade union movement.

The nomination, which Walesa would later withdraw, caused a stir because Geremek is of Jewish origin. In a staunchly Catholic country like Poland, with its strong anti-Semitic undercurrents, the prospect of a Jewish prime minister was indeed extraordinary.

Even odder was that Geremek's patron was Walesa — who, in last year's presidential campaign, summoned up old demons with his call for "hidden" Jews in Polish politics to "identify themselves." Walesa later apologized for his reckless anti-Jewish remarks, but it was symptomatic of Poland's apparent preoccupation with Jews that Walesa had even seen fit to inject such poison into the campaign.

Walesa turned to Geremek because the latter's party, the Democratic Union, won more parliamentary seats than any of the other 28 parties in the race.

The election was marked by anti-Semitic insinuations, although Poland's Jewish community has shrunk radically since the Holocaust. The leader of the xenophobic Nationalist party, Maciej Giertych, said that Poland should be governed "neither by Jew-Communists nor by Jew-Solidarity members." His associate, Boleslaw Tejkowski, used a poster bearing the slogan, "Jews to the Knesset, Poles to the Diet."

Poles pick premier

The Nationalists not only hoped to draw on traditional anti-Semitism. They tried, but failed, to make the most out of a simmering bank scandal involving two entrepreneurs with ties to Israel. As it happened, the inflammatory pair did not win a single seat, and Tejkowski was charged with inciting racial conflict.

In turning to Geremek, Walesa chose a person who is not only ethnically Jewish, but who had parted ways with him about a year earlier.

A medieval historian, Geremek was born in Lodz, the scion of a Chassidic family, the Lewartowskys, all of whose members perished in the Holocaust. Geremek was saved by a Polish family, whose surname and religion he adopted.

He joined the ruling Communist party in 1958, quitting in 1968 to register his disappproval over the Soviet Union's invasion of Czechoslovakia. It's not clear whether the Polish government's purge of Jews in that year had a bearing on his decision.

According to the *Jewish Chronicle* of London, Geremek is circumspect about his Jewish antecedents.

"This was never an issue for me, in the sense that it is connected with my childhood, which I have locked up within myself. This does not mean that I do not carry my Jewish identity inside me. I do. It appears when the issue of anti-Semitism arises. But in everyday life, it is under lock and key."

Geremek was a keynote speaker at a human rights seminar in Austria on the eve of his nomination to be prime minister. He warned of the dangers of tribal nationalism since the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

"After the Holocaust, we might have thought anti-Semitism was simply impossible in human terms," he said. "But now we see its face rising again. We realize that hatred knows no frontiers."

Shortly after Geremek delivered this warning, Walesa called on him to try to form a government. He could not, and on Dec. 6, Walesa nominated Jan Olszewski, a Catholic.

Was Geremek ultimately unacceptable because of his Jewish background? Probably.

In 1989, Geremek was also a candidate for the premiership. On that occasion, he lost out to his friend, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who became Poland's first non-Communist premier. When Mazowiecki challenged Walesa for the presidency, he was dogged by persistent rumors that he was really a Jew in disguise. The gambit was not unsuccessful — uninformed, bigoted Poles voted against Mazowiecki.

Search for Waldheim's successor ends

By
MARTA HALPERT

An embarrassing search for a successor to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, who voluntarily leaves his position in June after six years in office, has finally come to an end.

Desperately trying to avoid a repeat of the national trauma that accompanied the campaign and term of Waldheim, the coalition of parties in the Austrian government has been trying to find a mutually acceptable candidate for the presidency.

But until now, all efforts had failed. Either a given party lacked confidence in a proposed candidate, or a chosen person refused to run.

Pue Ortisch, the nation's most popular television commentator and a known liberal, turned down the offer, proffered by Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. Ortisch said he would rather remain an independent journalist than the country's first man.

The presidential post was greatly devalued by Waldheim, who was largely ostracized by the West after he had to confront a Nazi past.

The former UN secretary-general was elected president in June 1986 after a heated campaign in which charges were raised, first by an Austrian magazine and then international Jewish groups, particularly the World Jewish Congress, that Waldheim had been a member of the German army in the Balkans when Jews were deported and partisans killed.

The fact that it was brought to light mainly through the efforts of Jewish groups stirred anti-Semitic feelings in this country where, at best, anti-Semitism was never a stranger.

Waldheim's victory, a landslide by Austrian standards, was attributed to defiance by Austrians to Jewish or outside opinion.

But after his election, Waldheim was ignored by much of the international diplomatic community, was persona non grata in the West and suffered the ignominy of being placed on the U.S. "watch list" of undesirable aliens, barred from entering the United States.

Now, as Austria seeks future membership in the European Community, the approval and good will of European countries is greatly desired.

Therefore, Vranitzky put an end to the awkward search for a candidate. As chairman of the Socialist party of Austria, he chose his friend, Rudolf Streicher, currently a very successful minister of transport, who won popularity with the public by reducing heavy truck traffic on Austria's main north-south highway.

Streicher, 52, has the image of an open-minded, highly competent technocrat. His career has been the epitome of the socialist dream: He rose from a poor childhood in the province of Styria, worked while he studied and got his academic degree while employed as a miner.

On the other side of the political fence, the conservative People's party is trying to make amends for Waldheim, its candidate in 1986.

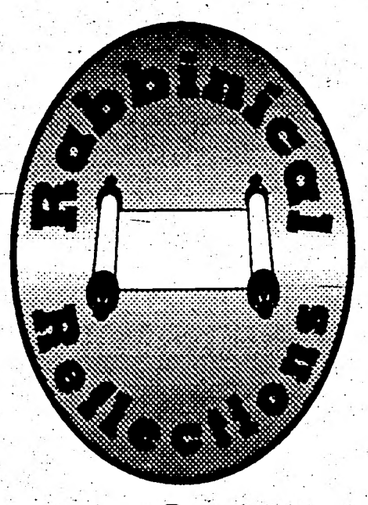
It has chosen for the 1992 race career diplomat Thomas Klestil, who is probably better known on Embassy Row in Washington than in the Austrian Tyrol.

Klestil, 58, has had 35 years of diplomatic experience abroad, which culminated in his being named Austria's ambassador to the United States.

For the past two years, he has been secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry in Vienna.

And so, after the difficult search, the race seems to be winding up between two highly competent, well-regarded men who, most especially, will not have to account for their activities during the Nazi regime: both were children at the time.

— *JTA*



By
RABBI JOSEPH KELMAN

In assessing the state of the Jewish world, one key descriptive word would be "paradox."

On one hand, recent statistics have indicated that the rate of intermarriage in North America is 52 percent, a frightening number. While the percentage is not that high in Canada, we also do have cause for concern. Intermarriage, as well as apathy, cause many young Jews to drop out of Judaism and assimilate into the general society. For many years Jewish leaders have been concerned about the university campus; there is a very small percentage of students who are interested informally and formally in Jewish programs.

The other side of the paradox is that thousands of Jewish boys and girls go to day school. And there has never been such a baal t'shuva movement as there is today, which has brought back tens of thousands of Jewish adults to the concrete commitment to Torah and Jewish values. Today there are more men and women of all ages studying Talmud on an adult level than in the heyday of the vibrant Eastern Jewish communities.

The drifting away of Judaic values began with the large scale emigration from Europe to North America at the end of the 18th century and beginning of the 19th century, moving away from the economic, political and social persecution that did not allow Jews very much freedom in European countries. Unfortunately many Jews were prepared to give up much of their religious practices in order to be accepted and/or to be like their fellow North Americans.

This has changed a lot. Today Jews have been accepted in government, commerce and universities without giving up an iota of their religious observances. In Washington, two of U.S. Foreign Secretary James Baker's foreign trusted advisers on the Middle East are religious, observant young men. This was not the pattern during World War II when, although there were a number of Jews with prominent and influential positions in the American government, they had divorced themselves completely from the Jewish community.

How do we address the problem of intermarriage, assimilation, apathy and lack of interest in Judaism? How do we solve the big problem of dropping out of Hebrew school after bar/bat mitzvah? It would seem to me that the solution can be found in the very place where the problem was created — in the home. Every parent wants naches from their children. We should add one more word and try for "a Yiddish nachus."

The Jewish home must be the place where children and adults get a message that Jewish values are important. It is the place where the teaching of the school and synagogue must be put into concrete form. The Jewish home has to make sure that on an ongoing basis there are warm, enthusiastic ways in which the rituals and customs of the holidays are observed. More than once I have been asked by young men and women whose parents objected to their intermarriage: What is different about my home from a non-Jewish one? This is a tragic rationalization that requires a response.

We have just completed the holiday of Chanukah. We celebrated the miracle that took place in the Beit Hamikdash, not in the synagogue but in the home because this is where Jewish life can be perpetuated.

It is interesting that we always read the story of Joseph during Chanukah because there is a similar message. During the historical time of Chanukah, many young people wanted to assimilate to the Greek culture. Likewise, Joseph had the perfect opportunity to assimilate into the Egyptian society, yet he chose to remain committed to the monotheistic values of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather. This is why when Yaakov, on his death bed, blessed his children he also blessed two grandchildren, the sons of Joseph. The success of a person's ideology and values can be seen if grandchildren follow in their grandparents' footsteps.

Yaakov blessed them in an interesting way. He said "may Efraim and Menashe, the children of Joseph, be the model for all of us"; he used the singular, the composite figure. Efraim and Menashe represented two ways of life, one was a scholar, the other was a man of the world yet both had similar goals and ways of life. They were the first young Jewish men growing up in an alien culture, Egypt, yet they remained loyal to the values of their home.

As we look at the Jewish young men and women growing up in Canada in the 1990s, we hope that they also will be able to maintain that loyalty. To do this, they will need the combined efforts of the community — represented by the rabbinate, the schools, the federations — and especially, the home.

Rabbi Joseph Kelman is the spiritual leader of the Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Downsview, Ont.

Immigrants lobby on residence status

JERUSALEM (JTA) —

North American and other Western immigrant associations in Israel are actively lobbying the Knesset Finance Committee to reverse a government decision that would eliminate temporary resident status for new olim, beginning Jan. 1.

The so-called A-1 visa grants new arrivals temporary resident status for five years, during which they are entitled to exemptions from army service and from taxes on the purchase of household goods, electrical appliances and imported cars. They are also eligible for favorable government mortgages and various medical and social benefits.

After five years, temporary residents must acquire Israeli citizenship and thereby become responsible for paying regular taxes and serving in the Israel Defence Force.

A spokesman for the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel called the Cabinet decision to eliminate A-1 status "wrong and discriminatory."

"Western olim should not be punished for misleading Finance Ministry claims that Soviet olim with A-1 temporary resident status are exploiting Western olim rights, to supplement their absorption basket," said Ira Cohen, referring to the special subsidy that Soviet immigrants receive during their first year.

Such abuses are marginal, he said, since few Soviet olim can take advantage of the benefits given Western olim. And in any case, he added, the number of Western olim is "too small to justify such drastic measures."

Figures from the Central Bureau of Statistics tend to bear out his charges. Between January and September 1991, only 2,429 potential immigrants holding A-1 temporary resident visas made aliyah, fewer than a third of whom came from North America. During the same period, only seven of the 118,753 Soviet olim arriving in Israel came with A-1 visas.

The Finance Ministry does not understand the fuss. "Western immigrants will continue to benefit from traditional olim rights," said ministry spokesman Arie Gru'enblatt. "They are simply being asked to take on immediately the responsibilities and burdens of regular Israeli citizens."

Despite a Finance Ministry request from Oct. 27, Absorption Ministry officials are only now beginning to draft detailed guidelines on the impending changes.

"NACHAS" BY MIRIAM LANAIL
S. GLICK ISRAEL
TO: LORNA HART
1 MAPLE
RIVERVIEW
CANADA
Dear Sis
Your life in Canada is just too hectic
HERE ON THE KIBBUTZ, LIFE IS MORE RELAXED:
WHEN WILL YOU FINALLY INSTALL MY SHOWER DOOR?
RELAX, RELAX, THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME.
LOTS OF TIME FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS:
SEEMS LIKE WE'VE BEEN OUT HERE FOREVER!
WHAT TIME IS IT ANYHOW?
ABOUT AN HOUR BEFORE BREAKFAST.
THERE'S ALWAYS TIME TO PLAY WITH THE KIDS:
YOU CHEATED!!
DID NOT!
WAAAAAAAA
AND TUCK THEM EACH INTO BED AT NIGHT:
YOU SAID YOU'D COME TO MY DORM FIRST.
YOU HAVE TO COME TO MY DORM FIRST TO CHECK MY PROJECT!
WAAAAAAAA
WISH I COULD WRITE MORE, BUT I GOTTA RUN!
LOVE
SHOSHANA
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Albert & Addie Krangle - *50th Wedding Anniversary*
Lottie & Jack Magder - *50th Wedding Anniversary*
Dr. Gordon Perlmutter - *65th Birthday*
Eva Pivnick - *90th Birthday*
Morris Shoom - *Special Birthday*
Anne & William Sprackman - *60th Wedding Anniversary*

Baycrest Centre
for Geriatric Care

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Organizations and People

Arthritis sufferer gets benefits from swimming pool exercise

TORONTO —

When she was told that back surgery was the only way to help her severe arthritis pain, Anna Gelberger refused to believe it.

Instead, the determined 63-year-old joined the Joseph E. and Minnie Wagman Centre two years ago and learned how to swim.

"I was so afraid of the water, but I'd heard that water exercise might help the pain," Gelberger explains. "I didn't want to have an operation, so I signed up for the pool program. And somehow, through the kindness and patience of the program workers and a lot of perseverance, I've actually learned to swim."

Swimming and water exercise have improved her flexibility and mobility and increased her physical strength, according to program worker Judy Chu.

"And overcoming her fear of water and learning to swim has also helped Anna gain more confidence and self-esteem," says Chu.

Before she joined the Wagman Centre, Gelberger says she spent more time at physiotherapy than she did at home.

"But since coming here, I haven't had to go for therapy once. I still can't believe that I'm walking around with such ease when before, I couldn't even turn my head to look over my shoulder. The pain isn't entirely gone, but I can live with it now."

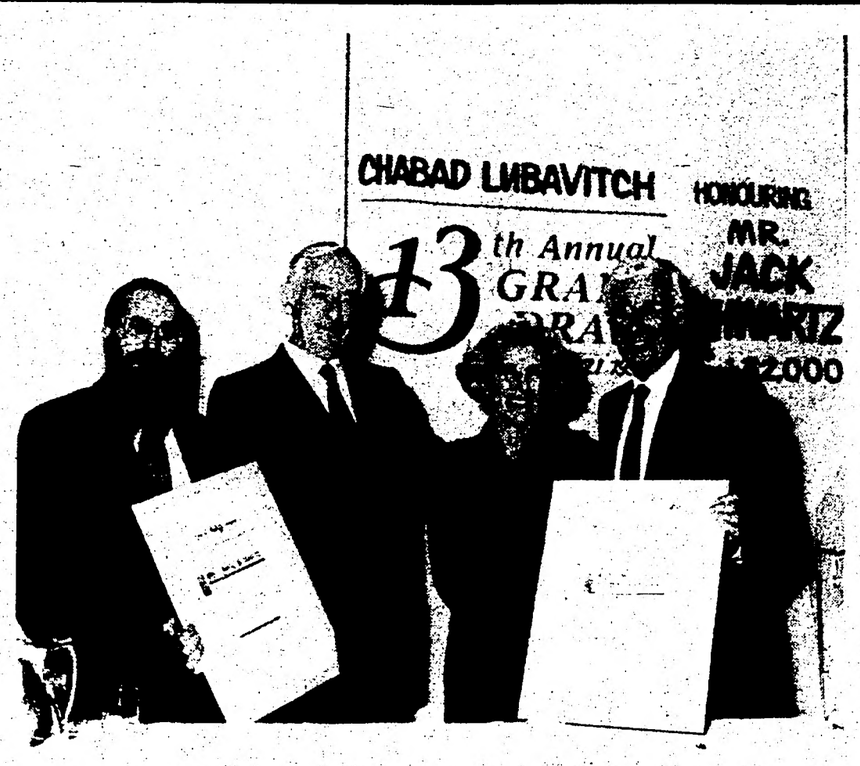
In recognition of her courage and determination, Gelberger was the recipient of this year's Herb Charles Award presented at the recent Wagman Centre Fitness Award Night.

The Wagman Centre is a multi-service community centre which is part of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

The Herb Charles Award was established in 1981 in honor of a former Baycrest Hospital patient. Herb Charles had cerebral palsy but he was able to overcome his disabilities in the swimming pool. When he died at age 51, the hospital patients who knew him requested that an award be given annually to an individual in a swim program who, by outlook and example, provides encouragement to others.

For information about the Wagman Centre's physical fitness and health maintenance programs, please call Linda Kremer at 789-5131 ext. 2272.

Anna Gelberger, 63, receives the Herb Charles Award from Jacques Hendlisz, executive vice-president of operations at Baycrest Centre, at the recent Fitness Awards Night at the Joseph E. and Minnie Wagman Centre. Gelberger learned to swim to overcome her arthritic pain and to avoid back surgery. Since learning to swim she hasn't gone to physiotherapy once, and can walk around with greater ease and comfort.



LUBAVITCH SUPPORTER

Jack Schwartz (second from left), a longtime supporter of the Lubavitch movement, and his wife Rose, receive citations from Rabbi Zalman Grossbaum (left), executive vice-president of Chabad Lubavitch of Southern Ontario, and Schwartz's brother-in-law Saul, at the organization's 13th annual draw.

Students sought for summer of science

TORONTO —

Seven outstanding science students will be chosen to represent Canada next summer at The Dr. Bessie F. Lawrence 24th International Summer Science Institute on the campus of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot from July 8-August 7.

This intensive program is open to top students who will be entering university in September, 1992 to pursue studies in science. Conducted in English, the program focuses on current research topics in areas such as the fight against disease, the resolution of environmental problems, the search for alternative energy sources and the development of advanced technology.

Laboratory work is supplemented by lectures given by senior Institute scientists. Working within small research groups, each participant chooses a subject in accordance with his or her own interests.

After three weeks at the Weizmann Institute, the group shifts to a field school in the Negev where they observe life systems, geology, climatology, etc. In this way, the very "essence" of scientific inquiry is emphasized.

For further information and application forms, please call (416) 733-9220.

JNF emissary focuses on youth

MONTREAL —

Jewish National Fund recently welcomed a new national education emissary to Canada as part of its mandate to bring Zionist education to communities across the country.

Lt.-Col. (Res.) Levi Shafran's responsibilities will involve work within the school systems throughout Canada.

Born in Romania and raised in Israel, he joined the air force in 1973 and graduated as a flight engineer from the Air Force Academy Flying School. He acquired a Bachelor of Science degree from Technion Israel Institute of Technology, majoring in engineering.

He comes to Jewish National Fund of Canada with an extensive history of service to Israel through his many years with Zahal, the Israeli Defence Forces. Spanning 18 years, his career placed him in a variety of positions, both instructional and operational.

Shafran's new position with Jewish National Fund as education emissary is one of great responsibility. As Jewish National Fund has long been acknowledged for its educational functions and ideological values, his task will be to raise and reinforce the level of awareness of Canada's Jewish youth regarding Israel, thereby providing the hope for the future of the country.

The activities of the JNF's youth and education department are based on the principle that knowledge of the JNF's work is an important part of the education of all Jewish youth. As such, in the 1920s, the JNF teachers' council was founded to disseminate the fund's ideals in schools throughout Israel.

Since then, numerous special programs have been developed for schools. Posters, pamphlets, books, and of course the blue box, bring the presence and concepts of the JNF into every student's life.

Effective in the new year, Shafran will also be responsible for developing and increasing JNF's visibility and involvement in the Ottawa community, where his activities will also include the promotion of foundation projects.

Shafran will make his home in Montreal with his wife, Tova, who is an art and handicraft teacher and their three sons, Nimrod, Eyal and Omri.

Canadian Zionist Federation
LET'S LEARN HEBREW
with a qualified Israeli teacher
WINTER SEMESTER: 10-week program
3910 Bathurst Street, Suite 203 (at Palm Drive)
Beginners start Wed., Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Intermediate start Wed., Jan. 15, 8:15 p.m.
Registration: $100
For info. please call Sara 229-4222 or Marla 633-3988

City of Toronto

Important Notice to City of Toronto Residents and Merchants

There will be **no Blue Box Collection** on **Wednesday, January 1, 1992, New Year's Day.**

- Blue Boxes normally collected on Wednesday, January 1, 1992, will be collected on Wednesday, January 8, 1992.

Please help keep Toronto clean by placing garbage out for collection on the proper day. Never place glass or sharp objects in plastic garbage bags.

Nicholas Vardin, P. Eng., City Engineer and Commissioner, Department of Public Works and the Environment

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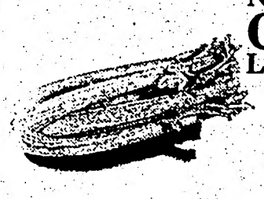

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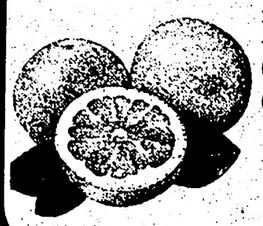

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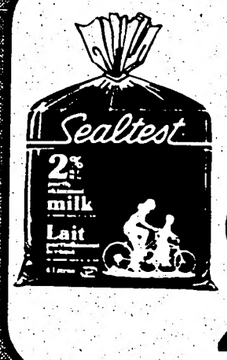

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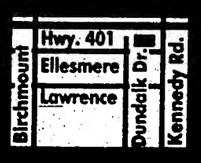
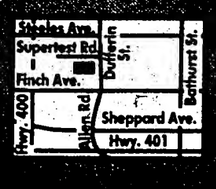


850 Ellesmere at Kennedy



4750 Dufferin at Supertest (South of Steeles)

Organizations and People

What's New

By
MIRIAM CHINSKY

DEADLINE REMINDER

A reminder that the deadline for What's New and About People is Thursday, two weeks prior to publication date. However, due to holiday closing and since there is no issue on Jan. 2, the deadline for Jan. 9 was advanced to Dec. 19. There will also be no issue on Jan. 16, but I will be at my desk on Thursday, Jan. 9 to take calls and sort my mail for the Jan. 23 issue.

Friday, Dec. 27

HAPPY MUSICAL HOUR

Concert pianist **Lola Julitta Burns** will perform in a happy musical hour at Lincoln Place Nursing Home, 429 Walmer Rd., 2-3 p.m., Friday, Dec. 27. The program will feature semi-classical, popular, Jewish and dancing music.

Thursday, Jan. 2.

FOREST HILL LIBRARY FILM

Admission is free for the Thursday afternoon, Jan. 2 films, *Robbie Burns* and *Small Happiness*, to be shown 1.30 p.m. at Forest Hill Public Library, 700 Eglinton Ave. W.

Sunday, Jan. 5

HABONIM BREAKFAST MEETING

Congregation Habonim's Breakfast Club, 5 Glen Park Ave. (Bathurst/Glencairn), invites you to start 1992 with fun. On Sunday, Jan. 5 at 10 a.m., Yiddishist **Brina Rose,** will explore The View of Jewish Women in Folklore, drawing on excerpts from Jewish literature and folk songs to illustrate.

Cost for breakfast and lecture is $6 per person.

NCJW SPORTSCARD SHOW

The next monthly Sportscard Show organized by National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section, is slated for Sunday, Jan. 5 at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. All shows run from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. For more information, call **Dody Rudson,** 633-5100.

Monday, Jan. 6

OHR SOMAYACH LUNCHEON

Rosh Hodesh Luncheons have become a trademark of the Ohr Somayach women's studies program. For the gathering at 613 Clark Ave. in Thornhill, on Monday, Jan. 6, from 12.45-3 p.m., **Rabbi Irwin Witty** speaks on Today is Tomorrow: Jewish Identity, Jewish Survival, Intermarriage?

Cost is $20 and babysitting is provided. Reservations are essential. Call **Michelle** or **Jill,** 886-5730, by Jan.2.

Tuesday, Jan. 7

T'NACH STUDY GROUP

The Tuesday, Jan. 7 session of the T'nach Study Group will focus on the Book of Samuel Part II, Chapter XVI, with lecturer **Rabbi Z. Wolkenstein.** The group meets 8.15 p.m. at Associated Hebrew School, 3630 Bathurst St.

LIVING JEWISH SPIRIT

The Association for the Living Jewish Spirit's next discussion group will be 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7 at Bathurst Heights Library, 3170 Bathurst St., when the subject will be What Do You Say to Children Who Intermarry?

Leader of the discussion is **Rabbi Reuben Slonim.** All are welcome. To inquire further, call 789-2876.

MANIC DEPRESSIVE MEETING

Family and Children: Coping with Manic-Depressive Disorder, will be considered when **Dr. Tatyana Barankin** addresses the next meeting of the Manic-Depressive Association of Metropolitan Toronto, 7.30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 40 Orchard View Blvd., Room 224 A,B,C. (2nd floor of the library building).

All are welcome. For information about support groups, call 486-8046.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

POMEGRANATE GUILD

The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework continues with the Baycrest Hospital banner project at Holy Blossom Temple, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

Share the gift of life at the mayor's annual blood donor clinic, Wednesday, Jan. 8, noon-8 p.m. at North York City Hall, 5100 Yonge St. There will be two-hour free parking with validation.

Thursday, Jan.9

DAFKA, A JEWISH CAFE

Dafka, A Jewish Cafe, 585 Bloor St. W. at Markham, features Jewish History in Music as narrated and sung by **Faye Kellerstein,** from 7.30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9. Admission is free.

FILM AT FOREST HILL LIBRARY

The Man in the White Suit, is the film to be screened 1.30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9 at Forest Hill Library, 700 Eglinton Ave. W. Refreshments are served and admission is free.

AND WHAT ELSE IS NEW...

Even though many of the L.Z.A. Seniors Club are away vacationing in warm climate, life still goes on in Toronto. L.Z.A. Seniors still have full activities every day at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codseil Avenue. We have games, cards, shuffleboard, chess and checkers. We serve a light lunch daily. Our next regular monthly lunch meeting will be held when our members get back from down south. We will kick off the New Year with a Third Seder immediately upon their return.

BARON BYNG REUNION

Montreal expatriates - a Baron Byng High School Class of '42 reunion is planned for Sunday, May 17, 1992. Events include a graduates' only brunch plus late afternoon-evening cocktails and dinner for grads and their significant others.

Your Toronto contact is **Ralph Garber,** 129 Clansman, Toronto, Ont. M24 1Y3. Phone (416) 497-9129.

YOUNG WOMEN'S GROUP

Tikvah Chapter, B'nai Brith Women, which resumes programs and meetings in early January has great plans and invites anyone interested in finding out more about BBW and the group (age 25-35) to contact **Miriam,** 444-7884 or **Patty,** 490-8137. Here's an opportunity to meet women your age and become involved in the Jewish community.

BREAST SCREENING

Women aged 50 and over are particularly urged to attend Ontario's new Breast Screening program for a mammogram and a breast examination. For a free appointment, call 512-0601 in North York, 298-2626 in Scarborough or 928-1379 in downtown Toronto.

JEWISH FAMILY & CHILD SERVICE

Jewish Family and Child Service offers the following programs beginning in January.

1. Widows/Widowers, (Begins Jan. 23).
2. Jews by Choice.
3. The Sandwich Generation: You and Your Aging Parent.
4. The Single Parent Challenge. (Starts Jan. 20).

For further details and information concerning fees and registration, call **Fran Lieberman,** 638-7800, ext. 215.

VOLUNTEER FOR CANCER CLINIC

Bayview Cancer Clinic needs reassuring host/hostess to receive, prepare tea or coffee and generally make patients feel comfortable while waiting for treatment.

Volunteers are needed mornings or afternooons one day per week. Please contact the Volunteer Centre, North York, 481-6194.

BAYCREST SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Baycrest Terrace Synagogue, 55 Ameer Ave., holds Shacharit services weekdays at 8.30 a.m. and also Mincha, Maariv (for times call **David** at 256-1600). Everyone is welcome

For more information call the above number.

HOLY BLOSSOM STUDY GROUP

Spend an interesting morning in discussion with guest speakers when Holy Blossom Tuesday Morning Study Group resumes a series of 10 sessions beginning Jan. 21 from 9.45-11.30 a.m. Babysitting is available.

For more information and to check on the fee, call **Rhonda,** 663-3812.

SHALOM VILLAGE, HAMILTON

Here are some of the January highlights at Shalom Village, 70 Macklin St. N. in Hamilton: Friday, Jan. 17, Shabbat with **Rabbi Zeplowitz;** Sunday, Jan. 19. Simcha Sunday with entertainment by **Marvin Rosenshein;** Tuesday, Jan. 21, **MPP Dr. Richard Allen** will examine A Day in the Life of a Politician.

Shalom Village is looking for volunteers to do friendly visiting, help with simchas and other events. Please call **Susan Mills,** 528-5377 in Hamilton.

KARATE/BROWNIES

No, Karate and Brownies are not offered together, but they are among the many relevant programs at the BAYT (Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto), 613 Clark Ave. W.

Karate, for different age levels, starts Jan. 9 and continues each Wednesday. Brownies meet on Mondays.

For more specific information about these and other programs, call 886-3810.

CHRISTIAN/JEWISH DIALOGUE

Courage to Care, a ½ hour VHS or 16mm film can be borrowed from Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto to show to groups. This academy award nominated film about Jews who survived the Holocaust and Christians who helped them, is narrated by **Elie Wiesel.** CJDT commentators can be provided to facilitate discussion. Call 941-9356.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

The "To Life" Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets weekly at Kehillat Shaarei Torah, 2640 Bayview Ave. (north of York Mills Rd). Meetings are on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. This is the only chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous in Toronto which meets in a synagogue or the premises of a Jewish organization. For more information, contact **Rabbi Steven Cohen,** 229-2600.

MINI MEET

State of Israel Bonds new leadership division held a mini Mid-East conference at the home of Esther and Yechiel Erez. At the evening are (from left) Malcolm Silver, co-chairman, New Leadership; David Green, executive director, International Centre for Jewish Leadership; and Dr. Howard Alter, function chairman, New Leadership. [Photo by Arnold Machtinger, ANM & Associates Ltd.]

BRANSON HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

North York Branson Hospital (Finch/Bathurst) needs day volunteers to staff the information desk and admitting reception, mornings or afternoons. Elementary training is provided. An excellent telephone manner is required. For further details please contact the Volunteer Centre, North York, 481-6194.

NEW FRATERNAL JEWISH ASS'N.

New Fraternal Jewish Association holds a joint meeting with **Overbrook Cultural Club** 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8 at the NFJA Centre, 120 Overbrook Ave., Suite 107. Feature of the afternoon is the film, *Old Friends*, a heart warming portrayal of life in an old folks home, starring **Hume Cronyn.** Admission is free and the public is cordially invited.

AT FOREST HILL PLACE

Forest Hill Place Retirement residence, 645 Castlefield Ave., presents a three-part lecture series on Life Works of A.M. Klein, with Ryerson Polytechnical Institute professor of literature, **Mark Finkelstein,** 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, 16 and 23.

Free admission. Reserve early because space is limited. Contact **Marlene Smith,** 785-1511.

YIDDISH CLASSES

Yiddish classes are offered at the following locations: Beth David, Conversation I, Thursday, Jan. 9-Feb. 13, from 7.30-9.30 p.m., six sessions, $15; Rockford Road Public School, T.B.A., Wed. Jan. 8-Feb. 12, from 7.30-9,30 p.m., six sessions, $15; Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, Yiddish I, Monday, Jan. 6-March 9, from 7-9 p.m., 10 sessions, $25; Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, Yiddish II, Monday, Jan. 6-March 9, from 9.30-11.30 a.m. 10 sessions, $25; Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, Yiddish III, Thursday, Jan. 9-March 12, 9.30-11.30 a.m., 10 sessions, $25.

To inquire further, call **Bonnie Kates,** Committee for Yiddish, The Jewish Federation for Greater Toronto, 635-2883, Ext. 155.

for seniors

The JCC Good Age Club at the Bloor Y, 750 Spadina Ave., offers these classes in conjunction with the Toronto Board of Education Continuing Education program; knitting, bridge, fitness, current events, folk dancing and ceramics. The program runs Monday through Thursday. Call **Luni,** 924-6211, for the schedule.

Tai Chi is a very successful program at the JCC North Y branch, 4588 Bathurst St. The new session begins Thursday, Jan. 9 from 10.30 a.m.-noon. Sponsored by North York Board of Education, this is free to seniors. For registration information, contact **Ruth Kula,** 636-1880 ext. 282 or 374.

The **Friendship Club** at Forest Hill Library, 700 Eglinton Ave., W., includes bridge and other activities for seniors, Mondays and Tuesdays, 12-5 p.m. January dates are 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28.

Canadian Israeli Club Aluma for Israelis and Hebrew-speaking persons 55 and over, meets every Wednesday evening from 7.30-9.30 at the Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. A few spaces are still available for the New Year's Eve party with music and refreshments. Cost to non-members is $7. Jan. 8, is a social evening with bingo. For information call **Avner Meiri,** 771-0250, **Oved Azuri,** 631-9794, **Shirley Dunkelman** at the Wagman Centre, 789-5131, ext. 2273.

[Cont'd. on page 19]

RETREAT A SUCCESS

At a recent Young Leadership Retreat, members of UJA Women's Business and Professional Network had a strong presence. Seen here from left are: Corrine Engel, Robin Kachuck, co-chairman; Evelyn Koch, Charlene Linzon, Edie Harlang, co-chairman; Roz Lofsky and Sharon Erlichman. (Photo by Jay Brodbar-Nemzer).

Organizations and People

What's New

[Cont'd. from page 18]

Earl Bales Seniors Club upcoming events include Saturday night dances in the clubhouse, Dec. 28 and Jan. 4, from 7-10 p.m. members free, non-members, $1; Sunday night dance with a live band in the Community Centre, 7.30-10.30 p.m., Jan. 5. members, $3, non-members, $4; A movie, 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8 in the clubhouse, members free, non-members $1. Ongoing courses offered in conjunction with the North York Board of Education are bridge, fitness and wellness, ballroom and line dancing. Also, those interested in playing mah jong are asked to call the club office at 636-7856.

The LZA Seniors trips to Miami are already in progress. Daily activities continue through the winter at the Centre, along with light lunches.

Everyone is welcome to join the new senior citizens **Club Hadar,** which meets every Monday, noon-4 p.m. in the Garnet A. Williams Community Centre, 105 Clark Ave., Room 103, Thornhill. To inquire further, call **Viola Landman,** 886-2625.

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Friendship Club, 100 Elder St., invites everyone to its general meeting with refreshments, 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29. Members, $1, visitors, $2. Annual dues are $7. For information call **Bess,** 783-3206.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club ongoing programs offered in conjunction with North York Board of Education include dancersize, Tai Chi, line dancing, Coping with Life with **Harriet Sharkey.** Call **Lena,** 785-5773 or **Ruth,** 224-5923 for information on all programs and trips. Remember the Golden Book to mark special occasions. Your donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. Call **Dorothy Bloomfield,** 787-1526.

At the **Wagman Centre,** 55 Ameer Ave., there will be a residents' Greet the New Year Party, 7-8.30 p.m. in the Assembly/Dining Room. Current events discussions with **Doug Haddow** are held Wednesday mornings in Rooms A and B, 10-11.30 a.m. **The Wagman Centre Self-Help Widows Group,** 55 years and over, meets every other Sunday to help each other deal with mourning and adjust to loss. The meetings provide a supportive environment and an opportunity to make new friends. The next meeting is Sunday, Jan. 5 in the library of the Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. Coordinator is **Toby Warsh.** For more information call 789-5131, ext. 2271.

Enter, 60 and Holding, a non-profit professionally-led nutrition counselling and weight reduction program at the **Wagman Centre,** 55 Ameer Ave. Next eight-week session starts 2.30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 8. For further information, call 789-5131, ext. 2267.

CENTRE FOR CREATIVE LIVING

The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living is located at 1003 Steeles Ave. W. The phone number is 225-2112.

Etrog, an Israeli cultural club for Hebrew-speaking older adults, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. For information, call **Helen Issenberg,** 225-2112.

A reminder that the Miami trips offer a choice of three hotels: Sasson Hotel (starting at $1,855); Shore Club Hotel ($2,900); Tarleton Hotel ($2,900). Call **Barbara Zigler,** 225-2112 for details.

at the JCC

The Koffler Gallery School of Visual Art at the North Y branch, offers Life Drawing Without an Instructor, which provides excellent studio time for artists of all levels, Fridays, 9.15 a.m.-12.15 p.m. and 12.45-3.45 p.m., beginning Jan. 10. For more details on this or classes in ceramics, clay sculpture, drawing and painting, stone sculpture and children's classes, contact **Rose Brinder,** 636-2145.

Singles Connection, call **Nurit,** 889-0813 for updated information on the lecture series and dances at the JCC North/East Valley branch.

N/E Valley offers adult duplicate bridge every Monday evening, 7.30-11 p.m. Cost is $3 per session. This is for members. For additional information, call **Nurit,** 889-0813.

N/E Valley fitness program, low impact aerobics class for women, Tuesdays and Fridays, 9.20-10.20 a.m., resumes on Jan. 7. Cost is $5 per class, $45 for 10 weeks (one session per week) or $85 for 10 weeks (two sessions per week). Call **Nurit,** 889-0813.

TwentySomething Downtowners Club presents brunch and the theatre, beginning at noon, Sunday, Jan. 5, at the Bloor Y branch. Cost is $20. For reservations, call **Luni,** 924-6211.

Find out about Bloor's Theatregoers, a new group for 33-45 year olds. To get on the mailing list and for more information, call **Luni,** 924-6211.

Call the JCC Singles Hotline, 889-5101 for 24-hour taped information of events at the JCC and around the city.

About People

COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

Elizabeth Webster has been appointed director of development, Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, responsible for providing the financial support for all CCCJ programs.

Elizabeth Webster

The CCCJ's mandate is to promote respect and understanding among all people in Canada, combat anti-Semitism, encourage racial and religious harmony and work to eliminate negative stereotyping.

1992 HOLY BLOSSOM EXECUTIVE

The following congregants have been elected officers for 1992: president, **Nancy Ruth;** vice-president, **Diana Goodman;** vice-president, **Gordon Atlin;** financial secretary, **Elliot Jacobson;** treasurer, **Beatrice Sidlofsky;** secretary, **Maurice Green.**

Installation of officers and board of trustees takes place at the Shabbat morning service, 10.30 a.m. Jan. 11.

JAFFEE NEW LIBRARY CURATOR

Montreal native **Cheryl Jaffee** is the newly appointed curator of the Jacob M. Lowy Collection of Hebraica and Judaica at the National Library of Canada.

Jaffe brings comprehensive experience to the position, having worked for the last four years with Yiddish and Arabic material and the Brisman Hebraica collection at the University of Washington, Seattle, where she also translated Hebrew, Yiddish and French documents. From 1982 to 1987, she served as the Hebraica specialist and Middle East assistant responsible for book selection and specialized reference service at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

Jaffe says that she feels fortunate to be able to work with the Jacob M. Lowy Collection, calling this "an unparalleled opportunity to continue learning and developing professionally in the midst of a world-class collection." And she welcomes a return home after 20 years working in Israel and the United States.

singles events

Singles Events is an advertising feature of The Canadian Jewish News. ***Deadline is Monday, 5:00 p.m., 10 days preceding issue date.*** *For rates or to place an ad, please call Alan at 422-2528.*

Dynamite Party!!!!
End of the year blast!!!! Wiseblatt, Goldstein, Cohen and Rubenstein presents a phenomenal event at The Club Bluenote (your Rhythm and Blues connection in downtown Toronto) 128 Pears Avenue. Special guest star, performing live, the one and only Liberty Silver, with special guest Mr. Bill King. There will be 3 separate shows, D.J.s during intermission. Door cover $12.00. Doors open at 7:00pm, please come early to avoid lineups. Saturday, December 28th. Dress code in effect. Grand door prize, $100 gift certificate to HMV, the music experts. Special note: early dinner reservations are available, please call Club Bluenote, 921-6034, to reserve. The singles event of the year. Don't miss it!!!! 8089

New Years Eve Dance. Buffet dinner. Live entertainment. 9:00pm. Borochov, 272 Codsell Avenue. $35.00 per person. Reservations by December 27th. Info., 631-7322. 7979

Boxing Day Special. Thursday, December 26. 7:00pm. Party at the Club Bluenote, 128 Pears Avenue. Cover originally $15.00, now only $10.00. Appearing at the Bluenote is Liberty Silver. Call early for dinner reservations. For more information call Felix productions. Lisa and Sharon 783-0973. 8098

"Pre-New Year's Eve Dance"
Saturday, December 28th
New Image 50 Plus. Earl Bales Community Centre. Hors d'Oeuvres, refreshments, prizes. Deejay Phil Allenbick. 8:00pm. Paid up members $6.00, guests $8.00. Everyone is welcome. Come join us for some fun and frolic! 8120

A Touch of Class (35-55) presents **Wine and Cheese Party**. December 25th. 8:00pm. Cost $15.00. Limited space.
New Years Eve Champagne Party (Roast Beef, Salmon Buffet). Champagne at Midnight. 8:30pm. Cost $25.00. Reservations must be pre-paid by December 26th. Call Sonia at 771-8448 for more information. 8100

Jewish Community Centre of Toronto, Bloor "Y" Branch, 750 Spadina Avenue. **Twentysomething (24-35 years) Downtowners Club** presents **"Brunch and the Theatre"**. Sunday, January 5th at 12:00pm. Wallin Lounge. Reservations must be made by January 2nd. Cost $20.00. For more information call Luni, 924-6211. 8135

MAZEL TOV TO GOLDIE

Goldie Hoffman, 85 years young, has retired after 19 years in the babysitting service at the JCC North Y branch. Staff, friends and family joined in wishing her mazel tov. Pictured here are staff members who have worked with Goldie. Front row, (from left): Sylvia Rosenzweig, Sherri Yack, Goldie, Aviva Greenspan, Emmi Pipersberg, Pearl Saltzman. Back row (from left): Jackie Radoman, Sarah Atkinson, Alice Lieberman, Sharon Rubinstein, Terry Krever, Esther Pohn. Born in Poland, Goldie came to Canada in the 1920s. She married Louis Hoffman and they operated a Bloor Street dress shop. A daughter, Lorraine, is a professor at McMaster University and a son, Harold, is a neurosurgeon at the Hospital for Sick Children.

CHUMASH CEREMONY

United Synagogue Day School Bathurst branch students, participate in their Chumash ceremony under the direction of teacher Ziona Rubinsztejn. Standing with Noah Zatzman, holding the Torah, are, from left, Adena Gutstein, Ryan Abrahamson and Dan Barazani.

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Organizations and People

Nine of the 15 remaining Jews in Stratford are front row (from left) Violet Hirsch, Jean Weitzner, Molly Miller and Ruth Krakofsky. Back row are (from left) Bernice Goren, Ralph Goren, Maurice Helperin, Sam Isacovics and Sylvia Helperin. The others (not pictured) are Mary and Joe Greenberg, Harvey and Lorraine Greenberg and Brenda and Phil Silver. $125,000 of the proceeds from the sale of the synagogue went to Operation Exodus. [Photo courtesy of Stratford Beacon Herald]

Synagogue in Stratford sold

By
BEN ROSE

TORONTO —
A small synagogue viewed by thousands of playgoers at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival is no more.

The dwindling Jewish community decided to sell Beth Israel and give $125,000 to Operation Exodus and $25,000 to the Stratford General Hospital.

"It's an eloquent gesture to donate this money to bring Soviet Jews to Israel," said Barney Harris, field director of United Israel Appeal of Canada.

The shul, established in 1953, was on Downie Street in the heart of the business district of Stratford and could be seen from the Festival's Avon Theatre.

Many Jewish playgoers would notice the synagogue and inquire if they could attend Yurtzeit memorial services there. "Unfortunately we haven't been able to make a minyan even for Shabbat for many years so we couldn't help them," said Maurice Helperin, former president of Beth Israel, whose store, Hudsons, is on Downie Street right opposite the synagogue.

"Every summer I had a dozen calls from people who wanted me to open the shul for Yurtzeit, or they wanted a tour."

Over the years a few Jewish actors did drop into the High Holy Day services conducted by visiting rabbis or lay cantors.

The synagogue was purchased by a Stratford couple who run an adoption agency for children from Central and South America and from Europe and Asia.

The history of Beth Israel goes back to about 1911 when Sylvia Helperin's father, Harry Shapiro, and her uncle, Joe Gerofsky, had services in their homes. Later the community rented space in the basement of the YMCA or Knights of Pythias for Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur serices.

By 1953, with 25 Jewish couples living there with young children, the community decided to buy the former Elgin Memorial Church to establish the synagogue. The ground floor was one big room with a stove in the middle of the floor. Later the upstairs was renovated into classrooms and a kitchen was built in.

But when the children grew up, they left Stratford, and the difficulty of forming a minyan became acute. "We haven't had a Shabbat service there for 25 years," said Helperin.

The situation became so chronic that even when a baal tefillah with two sons was available, the community could not manage to find the other seven males for the minyan for the High Holy Days. That is when the decision to sell was made.

"It was only a modest little shul, but we had many happy memories from it and it's sad that it's gone," said Bernice Goren.

Beth Israel's two torahs were brought from Europe by Sylvia Helperin's grandfather. One has been given to the new reform temple in London which some former residents of Stratford attend. Artifacts from the shul, including the memorial plaque, are being sent to Israel.

Or Chaim expands facilities

TORONTO —
Yeshivat B'nei Akiva Or Chaim has been granted rezoning approval for a major addition to its Almore Avenue campus in North York. The extension will give much needed space for the expanding enrolment and provide accommodation for out-of-town students.

The expansion features a new beit midrash, modern dormitory and gymnasium.

Or Chaim students will be able to use the new beit midrash for seder, chavruta and as a study hall. It will also be available for lectures and shiurim offered by the yeshiva on weekends and evenings.

A modern dormitory facility to accommodate 24 students and a fully-equipped apartment for the dormitory supervisor and family will be built on the second floor. This will enable students from out-of-town to continue to attend the Yeshiva and live in comfortable and modern living quarters.

"The students will enjoy using a newly-renovated and expanded gym for their physical education and intramural sports programes," said a spokesman.

As a result of the addition, the existing building will undergo changes as well and will benefit from an expanded library and additional classroom space.

"The overall effect will be a comfortable attractive environment for learning and modern living quarters for students in residence," the spokesman said.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall.

Yeshivat B'nei Akiva Or Chaim is the only Jewish boy's high school in North America modelled on the Yeshiva Bnei Akiva high schools in Isarel. Students receive intensive religious studies instruction and a fully accredited pre-university general studies program

The yeshiva operates a high school for girls as well, the Ulpanat Orot Girl's School, also located in North York.

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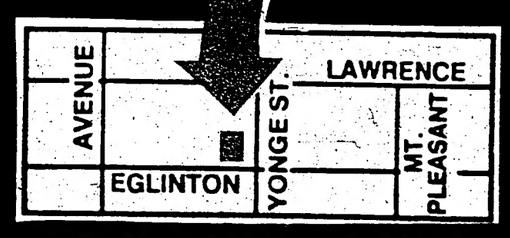

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GM

Organizations and People

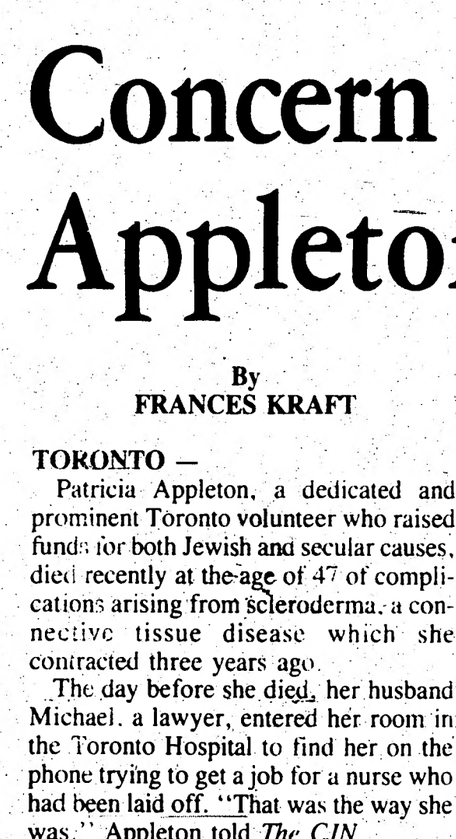
Concern for others Appleton's legacy

By
FRANCES KRAFT

TORONTO —
Patricia Appleton, a dedicated and prominent Toronto volunteer who raised funds for both Jewish and secular causes, died recently at the age of 47 of complications arising from scleroderma, a connective tissue disease which she contracted three years ago.

The day before she died, her husband Michael, a lawyer, entered her room in the Toronto Hospital to find her on the phone trying to get a job for a nurse who had been laid off. "That was the way she was," Appleton told *The CJN*.

"She was the kind of person who managed to reach out to a lot of people and had a lot of concern for others," said Rabbi Benjamin Friedberg of Beth Tzedec Congregation. "She was an unusual person."



Patricia Appleton

There was little in her early background to suggest that she would end up on the board of directors of organizations such as Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science and running swank fundraisers such as the Opera Ball and the Mount Sinai Ball (two of them, each of which set fundraising records). Appleton contributed her time to over 20 organizations, including the symphony and the ballet, said her husband.

Appleton's father, the late Rev. Charles Brown, was a shoichet who plied his trade in back of the family home on Euclid Avenue.

Appleton attended D'Arcy Talmud Torah, Harbord Collegiate and Toronto Teachers' College, following which she taught at Ryerson Public School.

As a young adult she was involved in Bnei Akiva and Hillel, and in 1973 received the Leadership Development Award from the United Jewish Appeal.

At the time of her death, she was chairman for the 1993 Brazilian Ball, the ultimate glitzy fundraiser in Toronto.

"She took on [the Brazilian Ball] only on the basis that they would do it [to raise funds] for her disease," said Michael Appleton. Appleton set a goal of $1 million to be put toward research, and appointed a committee to continue her work.

The 1993 gala will raise money for Wellesley Hospital's centre of autoimmune diseases, a group of over 50 illnesses including multiple sclerosis and Crohn's disease, in addition to scleroderma, which affects over 300,000 people in North America.

Scleroderma affected Appleton's lungs, forcing her to rely on oxygen for eight months before her death. She was on the waiting list for a lung transplant.

"She wanted to spend all her time doing something that was useful," said Michael. She was on the board of directors of the scleroderma association in California and was in the midst of setting up a Toronto branch. "She was on her way to making scleroderma a household name."

Appleton's determination has been evident in all her endeavors. When she was asked to chair the 1989 Opera Ball, Appleton accepted on condition that it not be held on a Friday night, as it had been for the previous 22 years. "I'm delighted that out of respect for the Jewish community, the day has been changed," Appleton said in a *CJN* interview at the time.

In addition to her husband of 26 years, Appleton is survived by 24-year-old twins Dina and Risa, law and accounting students respectively, son Brent, 21, a medical student, and by her mother, Belle Brown.

Involvement key to survival in small communities of Jews

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. —
The key for survival of Jewish life in Canadian small communities is involvement, say young leaders who attended the recent weekend conference, Looking to the Year 2000, organized by Canadian Jewish Congress.

"In small communities, there is no being a Jew by association as in a big city like Toronto," remarked John Gamble, co-chairman of the youth committee at Kitchener's Beth Jacob Congregation.

"You can't be a three-day-a year Jew as you can in a large city. Involvement in Jewish life in small communities becomes your identity."

From seven provinces across the country, 50 participants focused on leadership and communal involvement as they shared perspectives on small Jewish communal life today and in the future. The event was funded by a grant from the federal multi-culturalism ministry.

Gamble, a business educator at a Cambridge collegiate, said it was "refreshing to speak to someone from St. John's because the problems in both our communities are the same."

Steven Cohen, president of Niagara Falls' B'nai Jacob Synagogue, spoke of the devotion of small groups of people spending much time and money to help keep alive these Jewish communities.

He expressed optimism about Jewish survival in satellite communities such as Niagara Falls, pointing out a number of city Jews, who lived in Toronto, recently returned to their home town. "Five years ago, we had five kids in high school; in five years, we will have 50."

The goal of the conference was twofold, explained its co-ordinator, Susan Jackson. "It was to increase and develop leadership skills for some; for others it was to get them rejuvenated to enable them to continue their work."

The keynote address, Survival and the Jewish Condition: How We Fit In, was presented by Jackson, director of community services and youth activities, CJC Ontario region, and Prof. Marilyn Jacobs of Wilfrid Laurier University.

Other workshop leaders were: Dr. Edmond Y. Lipsitz, CJC Ontario region executive director, dealing with the question of What is a Leader? and Characteristics that make one a Leader; Marlene Walker, a leadership skills development consultant and Prof. Sidney Brickman of University of Toronto on Jewish humor.

Workshop participants shared experiences of what life was like in small communities. Gamble said that he enjoyed the "stimulating" informal workshops and the intimacy of the conference.

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Susan Cohen

Michael Danso

Helena Fine

Showbiz Mishmash

OAC dance department head active in Jewish community

By
FRANK RASKY

Susan Hilary Cohen has good reason to regard herself as a lucky culturecrat.

The 41-year-old daughter of the late drama critic **Nathan Cohen** heads the dance department of the Ontario Arts Council (OAC). In addition, she is a longtime livewire in Toronto's Jewish community. Her activities range from singing in the Holy Blossom Temple congregational choir to serving as a board member of the Jewish Music Society.

Last week, over several cups of tea and many amusing reminiscences about her famous father, the government mandarin was cheerfully counting her blessings.

When I asked her to describe herself, she said, "I'm 5-foot-5, vibrant, funny and fair, proud of my naturally curly dark hair and my keen curiosity. At 18, I was a dance critic for the *Toronto Star*, and I was lucky to watch dance grow from scratch in those buoyant, optimistic times. I'm committed to the arts, and I'm privileged to be working in the best job in the world."

She is especially happy because her organization is one of the few arts-granting councils in the world to be enjoying a recent 25 percent boost in its budget . . . received from **Bob Rae's** NDP government. It means that the OAC — launched in 1963 as "a rare bird with a large bill" — now has a staff of 80 with a budget of $46 million.

* * *

It also means that Cohen, who manages a staff of three, is responsible for administrating a budget of $3.1 million. But she hastens to debunk the misconception that she does nothing but give cash handouts to 15 professional dance companies.

"I consider myself a mandarin in the best sense of the word," she says. "I'm given the opportunity to influence the province's artistic life and audiences." Among other things, she has developed programs to support innovative, independent choreographers and, despite the snobbery of some ballet buffs, aid Ukrainian and Philippine folk dance companies.

The enthusiast has likewise pioneered programs to promote an interest in Jewish history. During the 1970s, she and her friend, art teacher **Cyrel Troster**, organized walking tours of what was then Toronto's Jewish ghetto in the Spadina-College area. They successfully campaigned to save the historic Kiever Synagogue on Bellevue Square in the Kensington Market. And they co-directed the first local Jewish Oral History Project, in which 30 early Jewish settlers and their descendants were interviewed in Yiddish and English, and the taped transcripts are preserved in the archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

* * *

Susan, who today enjoys reading the Yiddish Corner column in *The CJN*, acquired her passion for culture and Yiddish from her parents. Nathan Cohen, who died in 1971 at the age of 47 after open-heart surgery, was described as "Canada's most cussed and discussed drama critic." But to Susan, the controversial *Toronto Star* columnist and host of CBC's *Fighting Words* literary game show was "a very loving father, with a dry sense of humor, and a voracious appetite for the best in lowbrow and highbrow culture."

She remembers how embarrassed she felt to come home from Vaughan Road Collegiate and find her father laughing at the children's TV cartoon, *Heckel and Jeckel*, or gazing raptly at a wrestling match. But he was a genuine intellectual, she says, and she remembers engaging him in profound discussions about the role of a Jew in society.

"He was ambivalent about religion," she says. His Russian immigrant parents, **David and Fanya Cohen**, who ran a grocery store in Cape Breton, N.S., were extremely Orthodox.

"He rejected established religion at an early age to become a left-winger, but he retained the old habits of his upbringing," she says. "He could never bring himself to eat shellfish. He never mixed dairy and meat dishes. His Hebrew was impeccable and his command of Yiddish was fabulous.

"Toward the end of his life, he was debating with himself internally about his Judaism. And he began attending services at an Orthodox shul during the High Holidays. Too bad he didn't live long enough to resolve those conflicts."

Susan says with a chuckle that she and her sister, **Phyllis**, a composer and singing teacher at York University, certainly didn't inherit their love of music from their father, who had a tin ear.

"Dad used to challenge Phyllis and myself, 'Guess what song I'm singing?' " she recalls with amusement. "Then he'd kvetch out an 'ah-ah-ah' in a complete monotone. He looked crestfallen and puzzled when neither of us could ever guess the tune."

The two girls inherited their vocalizing skill from their mother, **Gloria**, now in her late 60s a retired musicologist, and their theatrical flair from their musical maternal bubbie, **Lena Brontman**, still alert at 98 at Baycrest Centre.

"My grandmother has always loved recounting to us with mime gestures and a heavy dialect the line she heard from a Jewish star in a Yiddish melodrama in the 1920s," says Susan. Then she mimics it with theatrical shocked disbelief, "Oy! A *chazzan* a shiker?" (A cantor a drunkard?).

My guess is that Nathan Cohen, if alive today, would be applauding his daughter.

* * *

A tip of my hat this week goes to the following Jewish creators in the arts.

Mazel tov to **Michael Danso**, the black, Glasgow-born singer, dancer, actor, who has converted to the Judaism of his wife, **Cyrel Laila Kofman**, a former drama and dance teacher at Bathurst Heights Secondary School. The showman with a charming Scottish brogue is now an active member of Temple Sinai and a popular entertainer at Jewish simchas (694-7992). He is currently helping the Beit Halochem Canada organization at 23 Kodiak Cres. to organize a gala fundraiser next February at Park Plaza Hotel for disabled Israeli War Veterans.

Dianne Weinrib and **Reeva Waksberg** are the theatre publicists handling Toronto's First Night Celebration of the Arts, which offers for the price of a $5 button more than 50 events at 11 venues running from twilight to midnight on Dec. 31 (362-3692). The more than 300 performers include **Dave Buchbinder's** Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, children's entertainer **Helena Fine** and Her Magic Basket, puppeteer **Mike Segal** and his Magic Unlimited Sleeping Show, and the **Barry Livingston** Jazz Trio.

Another New Year's Eve alternative is to attend the Toronto Operetta Theatre's production of *Vienna Blood* by the Viennese Waltz King, **Johann Strauss Jr.**, featuring **Shari Saunders** at the Jane Mallett Theatre in St. Lawrence Centre (366-7723). After the Dec. 31 performance, there'll be dancing, a late night buffet, and lots of champagne.

Worthwhile attending will be the world premiere of **Srul Irving Glick's** tone poem, *The Reawakening*, on Jan. 15, 16 and 18 at Roy Thomson Hall (593-4828). The work was commissioned to celebrate **Victor Feldbrill's** 50 years with the Toronto Symphony, and the 67-year-old maestro himself will be wielding the baton. On the first two nights, the soloist will be **Ofra Harnoy** performing *Haydn's Cello Concerto*, and on Jan. 18 it will be **Yuval Fichman** performing *Mozart's Piano Concerto*.

I look forward to attending the Jan. 16 opening of Puccini's *La Boheme* at the O'Keefe Centre, starring soprano **Yoko Watanabe** as Mimi, with the Jewish conductor **Myer Fredman** making his debut with the Canadian Opera Company.

* * *

I bow out with this still-valid exit line uttered 20 years ago by comedian **Fred Allen**:

"Imitation is the sincerest form of television."

Film examines Holocaust effect

By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

The Holocaust has bitten deeply into Israel's consciousness. It is not by accident that grassroots attitudes and government policy have been shaped and indeed determined in part by that unprecedented tragedy.

Orna Ben-Dor's film, *Because of That War*, examines its effects on the first post-Holocaust generation of Israelis. It is a poignant documentary, blending the haunting melodies of Israeli rock music with the moving recollections of two survivors and their sons.

Judged the best Israeli film of 1988, *Because of That War* turns on Yehuda Poliker, a singer and song writer, and Yaacov Gilad, a lyricist, whose joint album, *Ashes and Dust*, demonstrated the degree to which they had been affected by their parents' horrific experiences.

Poliker's father, Jacquot, a Greek Jew from Salonika, lost his first family, as well as his faith in god, in the Holocaust. Gilad's mother, Halina, a Polish Jew, survived the rigors of two concentration camps. Her mother, however, was consumed by Auschwitz.

They speak to the camera with passion and sorrow, but strangely enough, neither Poliker's mother not Gilad's father are interviewed.

Because of That War begins in a dark recording studio as Poliker and Gilad, both of whom are in their mid-30s, recall their childhood. Poliker swings between words and music; Gilad confines himself to reminiscences. They are intense, eloquent.

Poliker and Gilad are the products of obsessively protective parents who've smothered them with excessive love.

[Cont'd. on page 24]

Barry Scheffer
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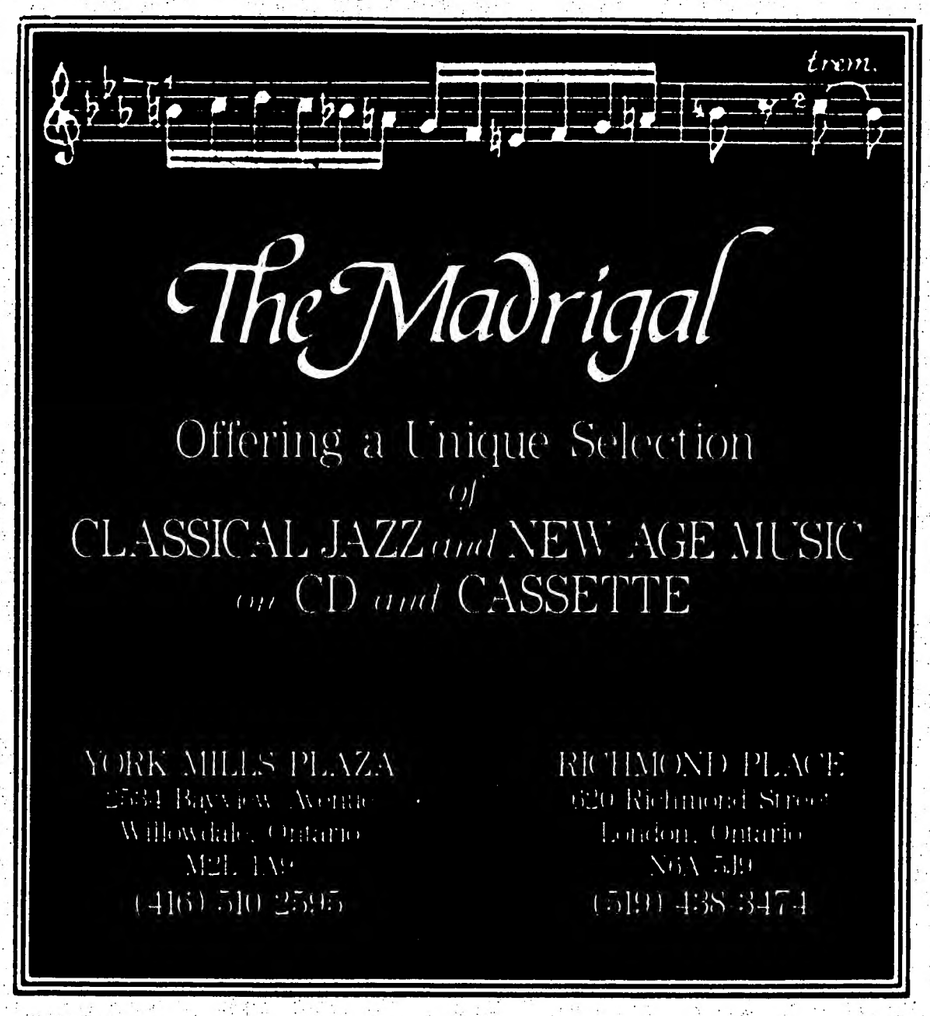

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Arts

Artist donates painting

By
CYNTHIA GASNER

TORONTO —

A new oil painting titled: *The Immigrants (Return to the Land of Milk and Honey)* has been donated to the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care by the artist, Sander Gladstone.

The 5-foot by 4-foot painting is on permanent display in the WA Cafe which is located at the main atrium on the first floor.

Gladstone's painting depicts a family (father, mother and son) with distinctive, somewhat animated, eastern European facial features, arriving in Israel. In their hands are suitcases with their few possessions. Their clothing appears to be their Sabbath best in honor of the emigration.

The background of the painting portrays the mountains typical of Israel. The body of water in the middle distance represents the Jordan River. Sitting in the water is a large boat with an exaggerated sail to portray travel, voyage, and time/space transition.

In the near foreground, two cows graze along the edge of the river. Three bees hover above the lush flowers as the immigrants survey their new country. The cows and bees evoke a notion of the "land of milk and honey" to which the family entrusts its future.

The oil paint is heavily applied with trowelled patterns in the sail, heavy brush strokes in the flowers, and smoother blended color applied to the family members. The painting is characteristic of the artist's style — there is clear demarcation of the horizon line and exacting use of compositional tools to achieve a flowing and balanced imagery.

The Baycrest Centre has acquired an outstanding collection of donated art. Gladstone's *The Immigrants*, valued at more than $4,500, has stimulated a great deal of discussion among clients and visitors at Baycrest, says Vivienne Marcus, Baycrest's art and interior design co-ordinator.

Edward Edelshteyn, the manager of the WA Cafe, where the painting hangs on the west wall, says, "When people talk to me about the painting, I tell them, 'That's me 10 years ago, coming from Russia.' They all enjoy the joke."

Gladstone, who was born in Toronto and went to Israel in 1971 on a one-year educational exchange under the auspices of the Canadian Zionist Federation, attended the Kanot Agricultural High School where he worked on a farm for half a day and attended school for half a day.

From 1972 to 1974, while still a high school student, he served in a civilian capacity with the Israel Defence Force. During the Yom Kippur War and for several months after, he led armed patrols in the environs of his high school.

On his return to Canada after three years, Gladstone continued his education at York University and received a masters degree in architecture from the University of Calgary in 1982. While studying in Calgary, he developed an interest in designing schools and synagogues and began painting in water color and later in oil, for private commissions.

His early works display a strong degree of cloisonnee technique with figures, grounds and details first drawn in pencil and then filled with pastel. On his return from Israel, his medium changed to watercolor in which images were contained by penwork and depth was achieved through washes within the confines of each compartmentalized shape.

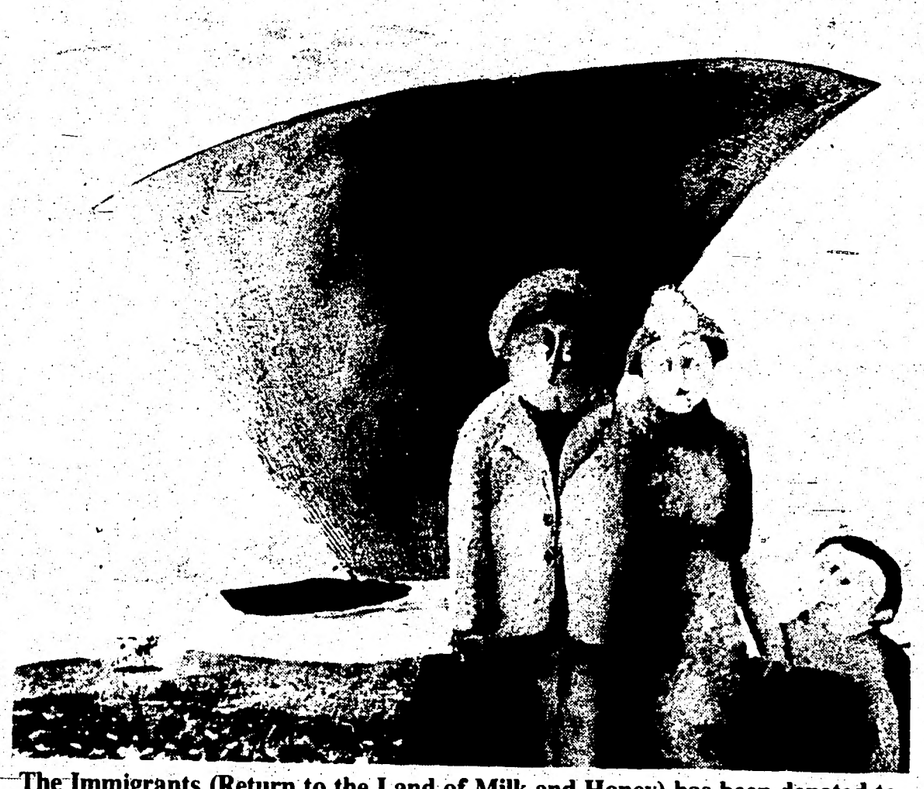
Now in his mid-30s, Gladstone has travelled extensively to Morocco, Egypt, Brazil, Mexico, Spain and throughout the United States. He says that he draws on his vast travel experience for his architectural designs and his painting.

His works are presently in private collections in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Los Angeles, New York, Jerusalem, Haifa and Sao Paolo.

Gladstone is currently with Beinhaker/Irwin Associates, architects, engineers and planners.

"My architecture as a form of visual expression benefits from my activities as a painter," notes Gladstone.

Gladstone is married to Lisa (Weingarten), a high school teacher, and they have a 1-year-old son, Noah. He says that, along with his painting, having designed synagogues and schools in the past, "I look forward to assisting congregations with renovations and new designs in the future."



The Immigrants (Return to the Land of Milk and Honey) has been donated to the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care by the artist, Sander Gladstone.

Holocaust film

[Cont'd. from page 23]

Poliker's father would visit his school every day to ensure he was all right. He wouldn't allow him to go on field trips with the other students. And Poliker didn't leave home until about the age of 30. Poliker, indirectly, attributes his mild stutter to that all-enveloping atmosphere.

Like Poliker, Gilad is unusually close to his parents. He recalls Halina's endless Holocaust stories. He remembers how he could never go outside without having to tell her where he was going.

Jacquot, usually wearing an ungainly white cap, delves into the past as he sits at a kitchen table. He is usually quite impassive, breaking down only once. Halina, a poet and writer, is so preoccupied by the Holocaust that it defines every fibre of her being. Sadly, the most eventful years of her life revolve around the Holocaust. Poliker is disappointed that she feels so completely "empty" after revisiting Poland. Doesn't she, he asks ruefully, have a life — a family — to sustain her? Must she be such a captive of the Holocaust?

Because of That War confirms the theory that the traumas of the Holocaust can be passed from parents to children. Certainly, the lives of Poliker and Gilad appear to have been circumscribed by the Holocaust.

Orna Ben-Dor lets Poliker, Gilad, Jacquot and Halina do the talking. She remains in the background, where she belongs. The result is filmmaking of uncommon strength, empathy and humanity.

* * *

Because of That War was screened recently by the Jerusalem chapter of Beit Halochem Canada (Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel).

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Arts

Books

By
BERNARD BASKIN

Dreyfus: A Family Affair by Michael Burns Harper Collins, $30 (U.S.).

A veritable torrent of studies, novels, plays and films have tried to explicate the confusing and complex nature of "The Dreyfus Affair."

The facts are quite clear. In 1894 at age 35, Captain Dreyfus, a French army officer of a middle-class, assimilated Jewish family, husband and father — hard working, disciplined, unimaginative — was arrested for high treason. He was accused of passing secret military documents to Germany.

He was publicly humiliated and deported to the Devil's Island where he spent five years in solitary confinement. Some of his family members and friends continued to protest his innocence. Eventually, new evidence came to light and a Major Esterhazy, a debt-ridden gambler of aristocratic Polish background, turned out to be the culprit.

Dreyfus, a quite unremarkable man, was propelled into the centre of a judicial drama that was to obsess France and tear it apart. Over the course of 12 years, three trials were held before Dreyfus was reinstated in the army, promoted to the rank of major and awarded the Order of the Legion of Honor.

Such a bare recital of the facts cannot convey the emotions created by the Dreyfus Affair. Public fervor was aroused by the betrayal of military secrets to the national enemy to the extent that Dreyfus' defenders were hounded and even — in the case of his lawyer, and later Dreyfus himself — nearly assassinated.

Much of this agitation focused on Dreyfus' Jewish origins, and it was led by a conservative, anti-republican coalition of militaristic, nationalistic, aristocratic and clerical groups.

Anti-Semitic forces playing on the fears and ignorance of the general population assented that behind Dreyfus was a mysterious and powerful syndicate organized by International Jewish Finance to destroy France.

After a century of emancipation, anti-Semitism was once more socially and politically potent in France as it was in Germany and Russia. It is noteworthy that most of the assimilated French Jews viewed the entire matter with dismay. Few of them chose to identify themselves with Dreyfus.

In the long run the Dreyfus Affair did little to destroy anti-Semitism (although it made it less fashionable). But it did permit the legal separation of church and state, the reduction of military influence, and the full participation of one branch of the socialist movement in republican governments, thereby giving the Third Republic a new lease on life.

Especially noteworthy about this study is the information it provides about the Dreyfus family. Culturally assimilated, the Dreyfuses found financial opportunity in the textile industry. Alfred, a promising young officer, made an advantageous marriage and was on his way to status in the military when he was suddenly and unaccountably arrested.

Undemonstrative, a prime example of one who lived an "intensive, interior life," Dreyfus was a largely inarticulate victim who could maintain to the world, "I am not a Dreyfusard."

Following his release from prison, Dreyfus championed a number of working class causes and served along with his son in World War I.

The author has researched the material thoroughly and has written the most comprehensive study to date of Dreyfus and his family.

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Travel

Sunquest sets travel standard

By
LEN BUTCHER

TORONTO —

To survive in any business for 20 years is no mean feat, but to continually prosper in the travel industry over that period of time, requires a lot more than luck.

For Sunquest Vacations Ltd. its success can be traced to Patrick Brigham, the hands-on president who has never wavered from his original philosophy: "Have a quality product and don't try to trick the public."

As he sits in the huge boardroom with its grand piano at Sunquest's headquarters at 130 Merton St., Brigham talks about the success of his company which he founded 20 years ago with his wife Joy. He's too modest to mention that they started the business out of their two-bedroom apartment on Maitland Street and watched it grow to its present six-floor building (which he owns) with its 60,000 square feet and some 300 employees. But that's the facts, ma'am.

"I worked for a tour company called Golden Wings," he says, "before leaving them in 1972 to start Sunquest. I felt there was a good opportunity to bring a quality wholesaler to the market place if that wholesaler came with a quality product and good carrier. Our very first package holiday was the Marriott Hotel in Acapulco and we used Air Canada."

That relationship with Air Canada has endured and strengthened over the past 20 years and both companies have the highest praise for each other. In 1983, says Brigham, Leo Desrochers, who was then vice-president of sales and marketing for Air Canada, "suggested we should do something together and formalize an agreement. Up to this time, although we used Air Canada a lot, we also had dealt with meany other airlines. Leo, like many others in the airline industry in the 80s, was amazed at our load factor--that we would lease equipment and fill it without exception." A deal was made.

Brigham believed that if he followed his philosophy, not only would he be successful, but he would establish a loyal and repeat clientele. This also proved true. Today, the percentage of Sunquest repeaters exceeds 65 percent, which means, says Brigham, "that people trust us. They know we're going to deliver."

It is also interesting to note that in Sunquest's early days, they received a big boost from Jewish travel agents, one of which was Aufgang Travel. "I remember it well," says Emile Aufgang. "A bunch of us along Bathurst Street had formed the Allied Travel Association, and we all supported Sunquest and did very well with them over the years."

Aufgang says he has the highest admiration and respect for the man, "as have many in the industry. He's a wonderful guy who has made the industry proud."

Back at Merton Street, Brigham is saying, "We really have two clients. First, the consumer and second, the retailer (travel agent) who interfaces with those consumers. The key is to deliver what you promise."

Brigham remembers the early days when the tour industry "had an awful name. We were the boys in cloaks and daggers who went out at night and did whatever we had to do. But we overcame that image because we kept with our philosophy and it's paid off."

The problem with the industry in the eyes of the public, says Brigham is that "it sees us handling millions of dollars and assumes that we must be making a lot of money, but we're no different than a grocery store or anyone else with small margins. Just look at the failure rate in the travel industry. Because we don't work on big margins, we have to make sure we run our business correctly and professionally, because if we don't, we won't be here."

Sunquest has obviously found the right formula. Not only is it the number one independent tour operator in Canada, but for the past 20 years has shown 20 years of profit.

Its most popular destination, says Brigham, is Las Vegas, which accounts for some 60,000 passengers a year. But Sunquest has expanded its horizons and now is handling almost as many passengers to Europe as it is to the sun destinations. He credits Eddie Carroll, president of the European division for this growth. "Because of Eddie we no longer have any peaks and valleys throughout the year and with our new program we've extended our London charter into Israel with British Airways."

The next big push, one that is already on its way, is the cruise market. "All our research tells us that it's going to get bigger and bigger and as a national wholesaler, we couldn't just stand here and tell our retailers that we couldn't be in the cruise business."

They are also not afraid to spend money promoting, as can be seen by their latest cellular phone giveaway with Cantel. "It's been extraordinarily successful," says a smiling Brigham. "Cantel said that if we did 10,000 from September, when the promotion started, to May of next year, they'd be delirious.

"As of the second week of December, we gave away our 20,000th phone." For anyone who isn't familiar with the promotion, if you book a package tour at brochure price, you get a cellular phone, plus extras, worth more than $800.

Brigham says Sunquest is now looking at implementing a domestic program to both Eastern and Western Canada, as well as Florida. "It will be basically air only, but with some hotels and car rentals included. If we can do them correctly and make a profit, then we will."

And therein lies the secret to Sunquest's success.

Sunquest president Patrick Brigham

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BOXING DAY BLOWOUT

Shopping strategies guarantee success

By
STEPHANIE CHAPMAN

"You mean you've never — never ever?" my friend asked as she gaped at me across the lunchroom table.

"No. I guess I've just never felt the need," I replied, not quite understanding her shock and amazement.

Feeling like I had to explain myself, I delivered the regular line that most people give on such an occasion.

"I've never felt the need to fight my way through the crowds, battle the lineups and deal with the heat just to save a couple of bucks by shopping on Boxing Day."

"You've got it all wrong! Shopping on Boxing Day is great — if you're prepared," she told me.

I've decided to call the conversation that followed Ella Cohen's Boxing Day Shopping Strategies.

Cohen, who describes herself as "an avid Boxing Day shopper," has an entire routine she follows to ensure a successful and relatively frustration-free shopping expedition.

First off, wear the right clothes on a marathon shop.

Shoes must slip on and off with ease. If lace up boots are worn, Cohen suggests lacing them up only half way so they are easy to get off.

If you're going to buy shoes wear knee high stockings. The time it takes for the busy salesperson to find you a stocking is time wasted.

If you're looking for boots, wear sweatpants that have elasticized ankles so the pant can just be yanked up.

As far as underclothing is concerned, Cohen says to wear high-waisted underwear — so lines can be avoided — and a good bra.

Due to the heat in malls, Cohen says a loose shirt along with a lightweight coat is best. The coat can be tied at the waist if you get too hot, or if you are only shopping in malls, leave the coat in the car.

"You should shop the malls first. What many people don't know is that some malls — not all, but some — open at 8 a.m. or 8:30 a.m. on Boxing Day. They are open and empty and ready to do business. If you start that early, you can have two or three malls done by 10 a.m.

"After the malls, I hit Yonge Street and then the specialty boutiques but the actual order should be decided by the individual as everyone wants something different."

One of the reasons why I've never shopped Boxing Day, and I'm sure it is a regular complaint, is the horror stories I've heard about standing in checkout lineups for as long as

[Cont'd. on page 29]

Attention shoppers ... After many years of intense research, Ella Cohen has devised a plan of action to make shopping for Boxing Day bargains much easier. Cohen is seen here after a successful shopping foray with her package-bearer Jose. (Paul Lungen photo)

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THE BOOKSALE

Lawrence PLAZA
BATHURST & LAWRENCE
Fashion at a Fraction!

Research bargains

[Cont'd. from page 27]

half an hour — and that's considered good!

Cohen says that before entering a check-out line, look around.

"We're like sheep. If we see a huge lineup, we'll join in instead of looking around for an empty checkout. It happens!

"Take cash if you can because the cash-only check-out is usually quite empty."

Cohen also urges Boxing Day shoppers to be informed consumers. She says the best thing to do is go out before the sales start to ensure that the price you pay on Boxing Day is an actual savings.

Once-a-year sales held by certain retailers are sure to give you the best discounts for the merchandise as they only go on sale at that time.

Cohen adds that if you are looking for a specific item, do all your trying-on beforehand. So, when you return to the store on Boxing Day, all you have to do is purchase the item.

Another tip is to leave the children with a babysitter. Not only are strollers a menace in busy shopping malls but parents won't have to deal with uncomfortable and bored children.

Parking lot procedures are also an important point. Cohen says not to worry about finding a space close to the store as this too is a waste of time. Park and walk.

Cohen adds that taking a friend shopping on Boxing Day is a no-no. They can hold you back and slow you down.

Extras also bog you down. Items such as a purse and gloves are things that you have to remember to pick up at each stop along with all your packages. Cohen suggests wearing a money belt which will leave your hands and arms free for carrying packages. This is one trip where the mall lockers can be useful in lessening the load.

"People are a lot more money smart than the retailers give them credit for and if shopkeepers don't have good deals, they won't be busy.

"On your Boxing Day shop, look for quality items, not junk. Don't set a limit because it may mean passing up a great deal and don't buy something for the sake of buying it."

Words to live by. Any last words of advice for the novice Boxing Day shopper?

"Get a good night's sleep the night before!"

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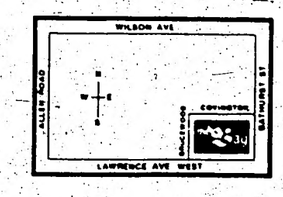

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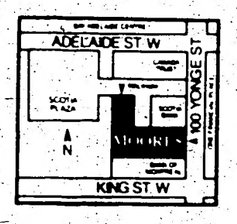

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BOXING DAY BLOWOUT

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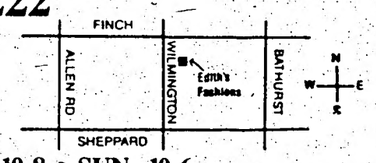

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Elte Carpet family shares secret on how to keep customers for life

By
STEPHANIE CHAPMAN

What system should retailers use today in order to keep a customer for life?

"The metrick system," says Laurence Metrick, vice-president of marketing and advertising at Elte Carpets.

Metrick began his discussion at the Retail Council of Canada by giving a brief background of the family company and the methods that were used to attract customers to their first out-of-the-way location.

Essentially, this was done through an extensive advertising campaign that emphasized location and savings.

However, after years of building their customer base, the government notified Elte Carpets that their lands were to be expropriated for the St. Lawrence Housing Project.

Developed a single store destination

"This was a devastating blow because a major share of our marketing strategy had been based on location for five years," Metrick says.

At this point, Metrick says Elte Carpets set out to do three things — clear the showroom, find a way to move and take their customers with them.

Due to their extensive line of merchandise, the company's initial strategy was to sell off as much as possible through a clearance event.

Metrick explains that while their main market was found locally, they have corporate clients all over the world. He adds that as the carpet business is a competitive one, the move forced Elte Carpets to rethink their potential markets.

In the end, research determined that existing customers would travel to the new location that was set up to become a single store destination. Located on Ronald Avenue, the 120,000 sq. ft. showroom houses eight departments.

These departments include broadlooms; oriental rugs; Persian rugs; wool broadlooms; contact and commercial service; custom designwork; a museum of modern rugs and Elte's Annex. There was enough selection and inventory in each division to act as a store within a store, he adds.

Metrick points out that during each phase of the move, the needs of the existing customer base were taken into consideration by the company.

Ultimately, how did Elte Carpets move their customers with them?

Metrick explains that their mailing list included not only previous customers but also people in the design trade.

He adds that the new print campaign was well received. Each advertising series communicated the move and illustrated how Elte Carpets was the best place around.

"Research is great but you have to think of the average customer. Today's customer is concerned with value. They want real prices and sales.

"The '80s provided us with so much information that people want to make simple decisions today. They don't want to be intimidated and harassed," Metrick says.

"They want knowledge, convenience, satisfaction guaranteed and money refunded."

Metrick says that in addition to the good prices, Elte Carpets offers a home service for those customers who live far away.

The company also responded to customer queries about broadloom and rugs with an informative seminar that is held in the store on a regular basis. The company has also written a manual on how to choose carpets for commercial space.

Innovative retailer award

Perhaps it is due to these services that Elte Carpets was given the Innovative Retailer of the Year award from the Retail Council of Canada last year.

Although Elte Carpets has decided to remain a one-store retailer, the company recent purchased a company called Ginger's Bath Centre.

Metrick explains that it too will become a destination store by following the Elte formula.

In fact, Metrick says that they have already instituted the customer-for-life programs through the use of informative seminars. To date, they are called Ginger's Toilet Training and Summerhill's Finishing School.

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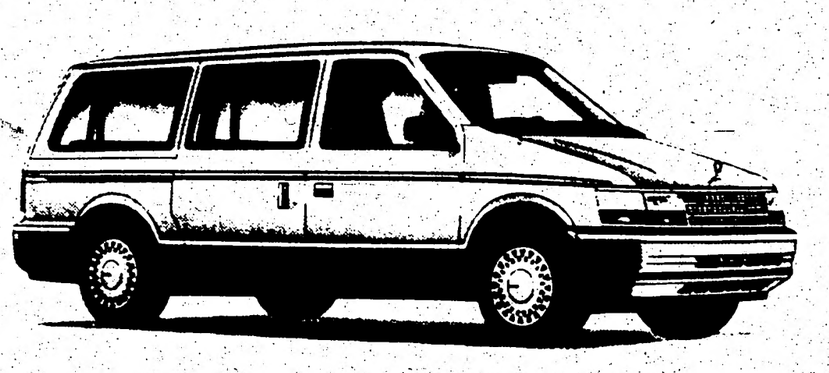

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David, Berla on December 5, 1991.
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Eisen, Eva on December 5, 1991, late of Baycrest Hospital.
Ender, Sally on December 9, 1991.
Galin, Sylvia on December 6, 1991, late of Greenview Lodge.
Gorochovskaia, Fania on December 5, 1991, late of 6040 Bathurst St., #1404.
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Film-maker Jack Micay garners numerous awards

By
FRANCES KRAFT

TORONTO —

The title alone tells you that *Oxygen, What a Gas!"* isn't your average educational film.

Aimed at students from Grade 7 to university, the 1991 film, a winner of eight awards, is the brainchild of Jack Micay, a medical doctor turned film-maker who still works part-time at a downtown Toronto clinic.

Film-making got into Micay's blood, he says, when he worked at a Toronto film-making company from 1970 to 1971, after receiving a BA in philosophy from the University of Manitoba. (A native of Winnipeg, he attended Winnipeg Talmud Torah through Grade 10.)

Micay returned to Winnipeg in 1972, after a year of travel, to enter medical school. He worked in film on a freelance basis, writing, directing and editing, while he was still a medical student.

Following an internship at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital, Micay established his own film-making company, MediCinema. Over the years his avocation has supplanted the practice of medicine as his vocation.

With 17 film awards to his credit in the past seven years (the most recent being grand prize at a festival in Czechoslovakia this month), the grand prize he won at a Spanish science film festival this fall, for *Oxygen, What a Gas!*, will remain a standout for him.

"I really felt like king for a day," Micay said of his trip to La Coruna, Spain. "There was all sorts of pomp and ceremony. [The awards ceremony] took place within the town hall, which is a very ornate palace."

La Coruna, a major fishing port with a population of about 200,000, sponsors the annual Casa de la Ciencias festival, said Micay. The local government backs it substantially, evidencing local pride in the town's science museum.

Micay's first reaction when he found out about the 2-million-peseta prize (worth about $21,000 Canadian), was disbelief. "I'd never heard of a prize that large. It's quite unusual in the world of educational or documentary film."

Micay's film features Everest conqueror Sir Edmund Hillary (who also appeared in three MediCinema films on the Sherpas of Nepal), and the Shuffle Demons, a "neo-beatnik" group who combine jazz with street theatre.

The combination of music, offbeat humor, animation and high information content make the 27-minute film unique. The Shuffle Demons perform four songs, for which they wrote the music and Micay wrote the words.

Background music was provided by Micay on keyboard and his wife, Susan Baskin, on flute. Baskin, a junior high school music teacher, is the daughter of Hamilton's Rabbi Bernard Baskin.

"The idea was to teach a bit of science and keep it entertaining," said Micay.

Micay's medical perspective is reflected in much of his work — a 1981 film on aspirin and heart disease for CBC's *The Nature of Things*, and a 1982 film on diabetes, to name a couple. He is president of the Non-Smokers' Rights Association, a concern which has also been the subject of MediCinema films.

In Canada, says Micay, most documentary films have the participation of government in one way or another. *Oxygen, What A Gas!* had three sponsors — Science Culture Canada, Communications Canada, and Liquid Carbonic Inc., a company that manufactures oxygen.

Despite his awards and the satisfaction he finds in his work, Micay says his most important production was not a film at all. "My most important production was a co-production [with Baskin] — my [1-year-old] son Nathan," says Micay proudly.

Film-maker Jack Micay on location near Banff during the filming of Oxygen, What a Gas!

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the Bay

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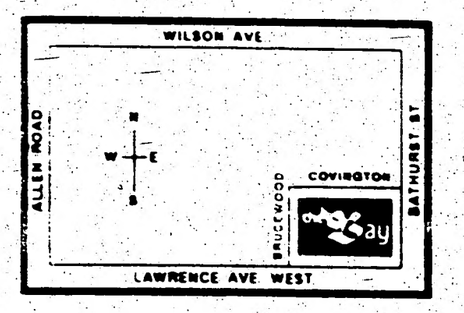

the Bay
Hudson's Bay Company

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Additional 25% Savings on all Red Tagged Merchandise.

2 DAYS ONLY!

Friday Dec. 27th, 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.*

Saturday Dec. 28th, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

- Dresses
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- Co-ordinates
- Outerwear
- Lingerie
- Accessories
- Men's wear
- Leathers
- Girls' Wear
- Boys' Wear
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- Toddlers

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It's a superb seasonal markdown, but we're doing even better for Boxing Day. ~~$20.00~~

4. **What you pay during Winners Boxing Event.**
Watch as all red tagged items are reduced an additonal 25% at the cash register!

$15.00

* Spadina Location closes at 6 p.m.
No returns Friday, December 27th please.

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Thornhill Square (Bayview & John) 731-3201
57 Spadina (at King) 585-2052
The Dixie Value Mall (Mississauga) 278-0030
Oakville Town Centre II (Q.E.W. & Dorval) 338-5700
Victoria Park (south of Sheppard) 502-2248
Winston Churchill (at Dundas) 607-0990
Dufferin (at Steeles) 665-7380
Newmarket (Yonge & Millard) 830-1815

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